

Priority Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic Arising from the Regular Report from the European Commission on the Slovak Republic's Progress Towards Accession to the European Union of 13 November 2001

TEXT SECTION

POLITICAL CRITERIA

The Slovak Republic continues to meet the political criteria and has further advanced in the consolidation of the stability of its institutions guaranteeing democracy.

Important steps were taken to strengthen the judiciary, however, legal norms necessary in connection with the nomination of judges and related to the abolishment of the probationary system have not yet been adopted.

Certain progress was also achieved in the fight against corruption, mainly in formulating a government policy and transposing international obligations. However, the thorough application of intentions in practice is necessary.

Democracy and the Rule of Law

The Slovak Republic has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy and the rule of law.

The Parliament

During the reporting period, the Parliament reached agreements on key reforms, which had been considerably delayed in the past. In February 2001, the Parliament adopted an amendment to the Constitution, thus taking a significant step forward in consolidating democratic institutions, strengthening the rule of law and preparing Slovakia for accession to the EU and NATO. The Security Strategy and Defence Strategy of the Slovak Republic were adopted with a wide political support.

The Executive

The preparation and adoption of the acts on civil service and public service is evaluated positively. Due implementation of these two acts is now needed to ensure that the public administration suitably fulfils the key role it has to play in a functioning democracy based on the rule of law and in support of the accession process. It is also necessary to duly implement the laws adopted in the field of public administration reform and implement the measures arising from the state administration audit. The plan to increase the number of staff dealing with EU integration by approximately 1200 in 2002 approved by the Government was also evaluated positively.

The Judicial System

Even though the legislative development in this area in the monitored period was most welcomed, further legislative steps are now needed to implement the constitutional amendments aiming at strengthening the independence of the judiciary and change the budgetary terms. Significant improvements at the practical level are also needed to guarantee the judiciary's professional impartiality and political neutrality. Reports and surveys continue to show that corruption remains a serious problem. The judiciary is not united in approaches to combat corruption.

The number of cases filed continued to increase, reaching approximately 900,000 annually. The duration of judicial proceedings, with an average length of almost 13 months in civil cases, remains an issue of concern. The average length of criminal proceedings amounted to around 4 months.

Simplification of procedures and changing mechanisms for assigning cases in courts would constitute an important step towards increasing the efficiency of the judiciary. Increased training of judges, together with providing suitable equipment and administrative staff is also a matter of priority. An EU Expert mission carried out in February pointed out that the prosecution system constituted one of the main weaknesses of the judicial system in Slovakia. The subsequent responsibilities of police, investigators and prosecutors appear to make the whole procedure very long, complex and rather cumbersome. The accountability and transparency of the investigation procedure should be ensured.

Anti-corruption measures

Following the adoption of the National Programme for the Fight against Corruption in November 2000, the Government approved the individual action plans submitted by the line ministries, consisting of more than 1,500 concrete tasks. Although these plans are a step forward, a number of proposed actions was too vague to make them operational and verifiable.

The Act on Free Access to Information, which entered into force in January 2001, has contributed to the improvement of transparency in public life. However, its full and effective implementation is being hampered notably by a non-uniform treatment among administrative bodies concerning documents considered to be secret and by insufficient awareness among the population of the possibility to access non-confidential information.

Despite the measures taken so far, the public continues to perceive corruption as widespread in Slovakia, notably in areas like healthcare, education, police, courts, and customs.

Human rights and the protection of minorities

The Regular Report confirms that human rights and freedoms are being observed in the Slovak Republic.

Minorities

With the exception of the Roma minority, national minorities in Slovakia actively participate in the life of society. The Slovak Republic has achieved progress in the development of relations between communities, in particular vis-à-vis the Hungarian minority. The position of the Roma minority remains complex, especially in the area of education, housing and social security.

Priority tasks:

1. Adopt an act on judicial assistants (Ministry of Justice)

Draft 2002 PGLT (PGLT): March

Entry into force: 1 June 2002

2. Re-codify the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Ministry of Justice)

Draft 2002 PGLT: March

Entry into force: 1 March 2003

3. Adopt the code of ethics for civil servants on the basis of the civil service act (Civil Service Office, Deputy Prime Minister for Economy, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)

Date: 1 April 2002

4. Establish the office of an ombudsman for human rights (Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development and Deputy Prime Minister for Legislation)

Date: 1 June 2002

5. Provide public access to the Uniform Computer-Aided Legal Information System (JASPI) (Ministry of Justice)
Date: 1 February 2002
6. Ensure further implementation of the computer-aided decentralised system of processing civil files at courts of all instances (Ministry of Justice)
Date: 1 February 2002
7. Elaborate methodology for the procedure and analysis of co-operation in the field of electronic exchange of information on the criminal agenda and subsequently implement a project for the electronic exchange of information (General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior)
Date: 1 April 2002
8. Elaborate a project focusing on the issue of lobbying (Deputy Prime Minister for Economy)
Date: 1 April 2002
9. Propose a model procedure for granting licences and permits under the competence of central state administration authorities (Deputy Prime Minister for Economy, Ministry of Finance)
Date: 1 March 2002
10. As a follow-up to the governmental ordinance specifying the catalogue of activities in public service and the method for its supplementation, determine the rewarding of public service staff participating in the accession process and release finance to increase the rewarding of these employees; submit a proposal for the allocation of the finance to the Government
Date of submission of the allocation method to the Government: 28 February 2002
Date of implementation of the new system of rewarding: from 1 April 2002
11. Elaborate a project aimed at increasing the transparency of the financing of political parties
Date: 1 April 2002 (Deputy Prime Minister for Economy)
12. Elaborate a proposal for measures to increase the transparency of public procurement (Deputy Prime Minister for Economy)
Date: 1 February 2002
13. Ratify the revised European Social Charter (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: 1 July 2002
14. Prepare a New Action Plan for the Prevention of All Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Expressions of Intolerance for the 2002-2003 period and ensure its implementation (Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development)
Date: 1 April 2002
15. Continue to strengthen the office of the Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development, Office of the Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities)
Date: continuous
16. Continue to implement the Government's Strategy for Addressing the Roma Minority Issues and the Set of Measures for its Implementation (Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights,

Minorities and Regional Development, Office of the Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities)

Date: continuous

- 17.** Submit an information on the implementation of the housing policy concept for the Roma from the least developed Roma communities to the Government
(Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development, Ministry of Construction and Regional development, Office of the Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities)
Date: 1 March 2002
- 18.** Adopt measures to strengthen inspection activities to prevent and detect cases of ill-treatment by the police (Ministry of Interior)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 19.** Adopt material and technical measures to shorten the length of court proceedings (Ministry of Justice)
Date: 1 June 2002
- 20.** Ensure uniform treatment by state and public administration authorities of documents considered to be confidential (Deputy Prime Minister for Legislation, Ministry of the Interior)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 21.** Adopt further measures in the fight against corruption, in particular in fields such as healthcare, education, police, courts and customs (Ministries of Finance, Justice, Education, Interior and Health, General Prosecutor's Office)
Date: 1 May 2002
- 22.** Adopt concrete programmes aimed at increasing the educational standard of the Roma population (Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development, Office of the Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, Ministry of Education)
Date: 1 September 2002

Economic criteria

The Report examines the Slovak economy according to Copenhagen economic criteria of June 1993:

- the existence of a functioning market economy,
- the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the EU.

The Report concludes that Slovakia is a functioning market economy. In the medium term, it will need to concentrate on fiscal consolidation and completion of structural reforms. The Report evaluates positively the preservation of the macroeconomic stability achieved through the austerity package of early 1999; the further reduction of the inflation rate and acceleration of economic growth; the implementation of public finance management reforms; the use of privatisation revenues for the repayment of government debt and pension system reform; the introduction of medium-term fiscal planning; the improvement of transparency by means of abolishing state funds; the concentration of the preparatory work on the state budget into the first half of the year. The free interplay of market forces has been further strengthened through the continued liberalisation of regulated prices. Excellent progress has been made in the area of privatising banks, which resulted in a substantial improvement of the situation in the banking sector. The privatisation process in utility enterprises - network sectors, and transport enterprises advanced as well. The commitments adopted by the Government in the area of macroeconomic stabilisation in connections with the International Monetary Fund's Staff Monitored Programme and new legislation passed in the field of bankruptcies and financial market supervision (amendment to the Act on the National Bank of Slovakia) are also evaluated positively.

The Regular Report emphasises:

- the need to substantially decrease current account deficit and trade deficit in 2001,
- substantial differences between individual regions (Bratislava – 99% of EU average in 1998, East Slovak region 39%), as well as considerable disparity between urban and rural areas,
- high unemployment (according to the International Labour Organisation definition, the unemployment rate rose to 19.2% in the second quarter of 2001 compared with 16.2% in 1999),
- the fact that the current economic policy puts too much burden on monetary policy, while fiscal policy is too expansionary, consolidation in the fiscal area is crucial; in the medium term, it is necessary that the economic policy is carried out with a balanced mix of fiscal and monetary policy,
- that for consolidation in the fiscal area, which is important for the maintenance of macroeconomic stability, the set general government deficit of 3.9% of GDP needs to be maintained in 2001,
- that income tax rates were substantially decreased in the recent period, while no compensation measures reducing the negative impact of these measures on public finance were adopted; these steps must always be combined with compensation measures in the future, while improved effort is needed in the field of tax administration reform,
- the necessity to further reduce the volume of state guarantees and subsidised for state-owned enterprises (the Government plans to substantially reduce this type of expenditure next year),
- the need to accelerate the expenditure reforms in healthcare and pension based on the calculation of financial impacts and modify and improve the management of the social protection system,
- the need to intensify the effort to effectively implement legislative norms that have been adopted (e.g. the amendment to the bankruptcy and composition act),
- that there is additional scope for dismantling bureaucratic obstacles to market entry and for facilitating access to financing for newcomers, in particular for small and medium enterprises; major obstacle for small and medium-sized enterprises is their limited access to bank financing;

although Slovakia has been introducing a number of support measures for SMEs, the European Commission welcomed that government interference in the enterprise sector was reduced,

- the need to make increased effort to further develop the non-bank financial sector (capital market),
- the need to adopt further measures aiming at strengthening financial sector supervision,
- that one of the key priorities for the exploitation of Slovakia's growth potential is the better use and re-qualification of human resources; a more active approach by the National Labour Office is needed.

Priority tasks:

1. Continue in prudent fiscal and monetary policy to consolidate macroeconomic stabilisation (Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Slovakia)
Date: continuous
2. The following measures in particular must be taken in the field of public finance, the consolidation of which is important for the preservation of the positive results of macroeconomic stabilisation:
 - implement the restructuring of Slovak Railways, which currently present a substantial burden on the expenditure side of the state budget (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications),
Control date: June 2002
 - reduce subsidies provided from the state budget in the draft state budget for 2003 (Ministry of Finance)
Date: 31 December 2002
3. The ongoing structural reforms and the process of privatisation in the financial sector and public utilities sector must be completed according to timetable.
4. Implement measures that would improve the functionality of the capital market and adopt further measures aimed at strengthening financial sector supervision. (Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Slovakia)
Continuous, control date: quarterly
5. Continue the medium term reform of expenditure on the pension system (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: continuous
6. Continue the medium term reform of expenditure on healthcare (Ministry of Health)
Date: continuous
7. In the medium term, it is necessary to create conditions for decreasing the unemployment rate through targeted active labour market policy (upgrading of qualifications and broadening of education, measures aimed at reducing disparities on regional labour markets, strengthening labour force mobility, reduction of the tax and social contributions burden, etc.).
Date: continuous

Chapter 1: Free movement of goods

Further significant progress has been achieved in the field of free movement of goods since the last EC Regular Report. Generally, the level of alignment continues to be good, especially regarding legislation. Further progress in the transposition of European standards has been made (70% of CEN standards and almost two-thirds of CENELEC standards). Progress in areas covered by *New Approach* directives has been particularly good. As regards sectors covered by *Old Approach Directives*, new chemicals legislation transposing a considerable amount of the *acquis* in this area entered into force in June.

The Report draws attention to the following shortcomings and measures that need to be taken:

- take further steps to abolish the pre-market system of control for foodstuffs
- a limited part of the "vertical" legislation in the field of foodstuffs was adopted in 2001
- no progress has been achieved with regard to foodstuffs labelling and in the field of motor vehicles
- no progress has been achieved in the non-harmonised area and in the transposition in the area of cultural goods and arms
- Administrative procedures still cause problems in a number of areas, especially concerning placement of products on the market. Adequate capacity for the implementation of the *acquis* needs to be assured. The Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing (ÚNMS) requires strengthening for the non-harmonised area.
- ensure that the deadline of 31 December 2002 for the elimination of mandatory certification is respected
- the Centre for Chemical Substances and Preparations needs to be instituted
- greater transparency in application of regulations (State Institute for Drug Control, Ministry of Health) is needed
- in the field of public procurement, certain legislative gaps need to be filled (discriminatory provisions for the support of underdeveloped regions, the lack of coverage of privately owned utilities, and the complaints and review system)

Position of the Public Procurement Office:

- the Office does not consider the support for underdeveloped regions as discriminatory (§78 and §79 of Act No. 263/1999 Coll.); as regards public utilities, these are natural monopolies (§ 3 (2) and (3)), the term review is incorrect.
- Proposed wording: "In the field of public procurement, provisions for the support of underdeveloped regions need to be applied in line with the procedures used in the European Union and procurement rules for privately owned natural monopolies need to be defined. As regards dealing with complaints, procedures for their investigation need to be addressed through legislation as efficiently as possible, and the possibility of applying appeals as effectively as possible needs to be addressed."

Priority tasks:

- 1.1. Adopt an act on the return of unlawfully removed cultural goods, which will implement Council Directive 93/7/EEC of 15.3.1993 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State (Ministry of Culture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Date: 1 October 2002
- 1.2. Adopt an act amending and supplementing Act No. 140/1998 Coll. on Medicines and Medical Devices, on Amendment to Small Trade Licence Act No. 455/1991 Coll. as

amended and on Amendment and Supplementation of Act No. 220/1996 Coll. (Ministry of Health).

Draft 2002 PGLT: September

Entry into force: 1 January 2003

- 1.3. Adopt an act amending and supplementing Act No. 272/1994 Coll. on the Human Health Protection as amended (Ministry of Health)
Draft 2002 PGLT: November
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 1.4. Adopt an act on weapons and ammunition (Ministry of the Interior)
Draft 2002 PGLT: October
Entry into force: 1 July 2003
- 1.5. Issue an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 243/2001 Coll. laying down the details of technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment for marine equipment (ÚNMS)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 November 2002
- 1.6. Issue an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 179/2001 Coll. laying down the details of technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment for civil use explosives (ÚNMS)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 November 2002
- 1.7. Issue an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 433/2000 Coll. laying down the details of technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment for hot water boilers fired with liquid or gaseous fuel (ÚNMS)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 November 2002
- 1.8. Issue a Governmental ordinance laying down the technical requirements for transportable pressure vessels (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Draft 2002 PGLT: December
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 1.9. Issue a Governmental ordinance laying down the technical requirements for cableway installations designed to carry passengers (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Draft 2002 PGLT: January
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 1.10. Issue a Governmental ordinance laying down the technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment of pressure equipment (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Draft 2002 PGLT: September
Entry into force: 1 October 2002
- 1.11. Issue a Governmental ordinance laying down the technical requirements for noise emission by equipment used outdoors (ÚNMS)
Draft 2002 PGLT: January

Entry into force: 1 February 2002

- 1.12. Issue an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 29/2001 Coll. laying down the details of technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment for personal protective equipment (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)

Draft 2002 PGLT: March

Entry into force: 1 April 2002

- 1.13. Issue a Governmental ordinance on the method of provision and mediation of information (ÚNMS)

Task 1.3. from 2001 - originally planned date of entry into force 1 October 2001

Draft 2002 PGLT: June

Entry into force: 1 July 2002

- 1.14. Issue an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 391/1999 Coll. on machinery (ÚNMS)

Task 1.12. from 2001

Draft 2002 PGLT: January

Entry into force: 1 February 2002

- 1.15. Issue an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 393/1999 Coll. on appliances burning gaseous fuels (ÚNMS)

Task 1.13. from 2001

Draft 2002 PGLT: January

Entry into force: 1 February 2002

- 1.16. Issue an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 399/1999 Coll. on non-automatic weighing instruments (ÚNMS)

Task 1.14. from 2001

Draft 2002 PGLT: January

Entry into force: 1 February 2002

- 1.17. Adopt an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 392/1999 Coll. on low voltage electrical equipment (ÚNMS)

Task 1.15. from 2001 - originally planned date of entry into force: 1 January 2002

Draft 2002 PGLT: January

Entry into force: 1 February 2002

- 1.18. Adopt an amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 394/1999 Coll. on electromagnetic compatibility (ÚNMS)

Task 1.16. from 2001

Draft 2002 PGLT: January

Entry into force: 1 February 2002

- 1.19. Issue an amendment to the Food Code concerning the control of veterinary medicine residues (Ministry of Health) (change in the responsible body to the Ministry of Agriculture - requested only through a letter, not a proposal for an amendment to the resolution)

Task 1.24. from 2001

Entry into force: 1 January 2003

- 1.20. Issue a decree on clinical testing and good clinical practice (Ministry of Health)

Entry into force: 1 June 2002

- 1.21. Issue a decree on good clinical practice and clinical testing of veterinary medicines to Act No. 140/1998 Coll. (Ministry of Agriculture)
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 1.22. Issue a decree: List of New Chemical Substances (Ministry of Economy).
Entry into force: 1 July 2003
- 1.23. Issue a decree on the methods of testing textile fibres (Ministry of Economy)
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 1.24. Issue a Ministry of Agriculture Order on the conditions for the preparation, release into circulation and use of medicated feedingstuffs (Ministry of Agriculture)
Entry into force: 1 January 2002
- 1.25. Create a food surveillance authority (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: related to the amendment to the Foodstuffs Act
- 1.26. Implement measures falling under negotiation chapter 1 "Free movement of goods" resulting from the document Analysis of the Requirements Arising from the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law (ÚNMS)
Date: 1 January 2002
- 1.27. Building upon documents adopted in the field of the fight against corruption, submit to the Government a proposal for measures to improve the transparency of administrative procedures within the framework of free movement of goods vis-à-vis entrepreneurs (ÚNMS)
Date: 1 May 2002
- 1.28. Provide equipment and personnel for the operation of the Centre for Chemical Substances and Preparations (Ministry of Health)
Date: 1 January 2002
- 1.29. Provide financial resources for the operation of the Centre in accordance with Act on Chemical Substances and Preparations (Ministry of Finance)
Date: 1 January 2002
- 1.30. Complete the process of alignment of the Slovak legislation with the *acquis* in the field of agriculture and forestry tractors (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications, Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 1 January 2004

Chapter 2: Free movement of persons

The Slovak Republic has achieved further progress in the field of free movement of persons, in particular with the adoption the new Labour Code, Public Service Act and Civil Service Act. The Regular Report draws attention to the following needs:

- to accelerate the adoption of the *acquis* on mutual recognition of professional qualifications
- to designate the Centre for Equivalence of Diplomas as the contact point and national co-ordinator for the general system directives
- to make a clear distinction between academic and professional recognition of qualifications
- to adopt measures to eliminate the contradictions between the Slovak legislation and Community rules with respect to nationality, residence or language requirements
- to complete an inventory of bodies authorised to take decisions under the general systems directives
- to continue training efforts, especially with regard to language training, in connection with the future participation in EURES
- to continue to strengthen the institutional capacity needed for the co-ordination of social security systems
- to strengthen administrative structures and further develop educational and training programmes.

Priority tasks:

2.1. Adopt an act on the recognition of professional qualifications and designate the Centre for Equivalence of Diplomas as the contact point and national co-ordinator for the general system directives (Ministry of Education)

Task 2.4. from Priority Tasks for 2001 - entry into force: as of the date of accession
Draft 2002 PGLT: February

2.2. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 123/1996 Coll. on Supplementary Pension Insurance as amended by Act No. 409/2000 Coll. - complete the alignment with Directive 98/49/EC (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Date: 1 April 2002

2.3. Amend Act No. 10/1992 Coll. on Private Veterinary Doctors and the Chamber of Veterinary Doctors (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: November
Entry into force: 1 January 2003

2.4. Amend Act No. 138/1992 Coll. on Chartered Architects and Chartered Civil Engineers as amended by Act No. 236/2000 Coll. (Ministry of Environment)
Draft 2002 PGLT: November
Entry into force: 1 January 2003

2.5. Modify sectoral legal provisions regulating access to professions and professional activities falling under the general system (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and Ministry of Education in co-operation with other ministries and central state administration bodies)
Entry into force: continuous

2.6. Initiate drafts of bilateral agreements with EU Member States on the possibilities of mutual access to employment (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: continuous

Chapter 3: Freedom to provide services

Further progress has been achieved since last year, mainly as regards financial services. Despite the progress, increased effort is needed in the adoption of new legislation and administrative capacity needs to be reinforced as regards financial services supervision.

The Report draws attention to the following shortcomings and measures that need to be taken:

- eliminate the remaining discriminatory barriers related to the rights of establishment and freedom to provide services,
- in the field of banking services, attention should be given to the transposition of the *acquis* relating to the deposit guarantee scheme,
- little progress has been achieved in the securities and investment services field (there is a need to align the legislation with directives relating to capital adequacy and collective investment),
- legislation needs to be adopted relating to the investor compensation scheme,
- improved co-ordination and further strengthening is needed for financial market supervision - the final decision needs to be made on which institution will be responsible for the integrated supervision of the whole financial market,
- it is necessary to strengthen the independence of the State Supervisory Body for Personal Data Protection and increase the number of its staff; legislation in this field needs to be brought fully in line with the *acquis*,
- the directive on electronic signature needs to be transposed.

Priority tasks:

- 3.1. Adopt an amendment to Collective Investment Act No. 385/1999 Coll. - achieve full compliance with EU law (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 3.2. Adopt a new Stock Exchange Act - achieve full compliance with EU law (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: March
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 3.3. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 194/1990 Coll. on Lotteries and Other Similar Games (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 3.4. Adopt an Act on Electronic Commerce – this is an MP's draft (Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Justice)
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 3.5. Extend the existing provisions concerning the rules for prudential business practice to include the relevant provisions governing supervision on a consolidated basis (Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Slovakia)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 3.6. Strengthen the administration at the State Supervisory Body for Personal Data Protection in Information Systems with 4 persons (Plenipotentiary for the protection of personal data)
Date: 1 January 2002

Chapter 4: Free movement of capital

In general, this chapter is evaluated positively. Progress has been achieved in the field of the liberalisation of long-term capital inflows (amendment to the Foreign Exchange Act and a decree to the Foreign Exchange Act); legislation has been approved contributing to the liberalisation of capital movements (new stock exchange act, new act on banks, amendment to the act on lotteries); in November 2000, the new Financial Market Authority was established to oversee the capital market and insurance sector; in the area of payment systems, the National Bank of Slovakia approved the strategy for the introduction of the RTGS system in the Slovak payment system infrastructure and progress has been made in the field of countering money laundering (a new act was adopted, a special unit within the financial police was established, and the new act on banks also pays attention to this issue).

Despite the advances made in this chapter, the Slovak Republic needs to make further efforts to align its legislation with the *acquis*, notably on short-term capital movements, payment systems and in relation to the fight against money laundering. The Report points out the following shortcomings and measures:

- it is necessary to meet the timetable for the elimination of remaining restrictions in the field of capital movements, especially short-term capital movements,
- in the field of payment systems, the Slovak Republic has not yet transposed the relevant *acquis*,
- as regards the fight against money laundering, it is necessary to abolish all anonymous accounts and introduce criminal responsibility for legal entities in this field,
- institutions responsible for the supervision of the financial sector (National Bank of Slovakia, Financial Market Authority) should strengthen their mutual co-ordination in the implementation of existing legislation.

Priority tasks:

- 4.1. Adopt an amendment to Foreign Exchange Act No. 202/1995 Coll. (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: March
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 4.2. Adopt an Act on Payments (Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Slovakia)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 4.3. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 367/2000 Coll. on the Protection against the Legalisation of Proceeds from Crime (Ministry of the Interior)
Draft 2002 PGLT: November
Entry into force: 1 July 2003
- 4.4. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 229/1991 Coll. on the Settlement of Ownership Rights to Land and Other Agricultural Property as amended, or a new Act Governing Ownership Relations to Land (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2004

Chapter 5: Company law

The report concludes that significant progress has been made under this chapter in the monitored period. It points out the steps taken as regards company law and industrial property legislation. However, the following is still necessary:

- as regards company law, align the Commercial Code with all Community directives at the latest by January 2003, increase the efficiency of and complete the on-line system of the Commercial Register, increase the efficiency of company registration, align the accounting law with the 4th and 7th accounting directives,
- align the area of trademarks with the *acquis*,
- strengthen the administrative capacity for patent law and ensure the effective application of the relevant laws, and strengthen border controls to prevent the imports and exports of goods violating intellectual and industrial property rights,
- strengthen judicial bodies and their co-ordination in the enforcement of the relevant laws.

Priority tasks:

- 5.1. Adopt a new act on accounting (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 5.2. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 527/1990 Coll. on Inventions, Industrial Designs and Rationalisation Proposals with aim of incorporating Council Directive No. 98/71/EC on the legal protection of designs (Industrial Property Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 October 2002
- 5.3. Adopt an amendment to the Commercial Code, or the Code of Civil Procedure, to incorporate Directive 2000/35/EC on combating late payment in commercial transactions (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 5.4. Elaborate a report on the implementation of the act on the fight against piracy and strengthen the administrative capacity in this respect, in particular on border crossings (Ministry of Finance, Customs Directorate)
Entry into force: 1 April 2002

Chapter 6: Competition policy

Legislative progress has been recorded in both areas, i.e. anti-trust and state aid. However, in the field of state aid, the rules laid down by the state aid act have not been sufficiently applied and enforced.

The following is necessary in the forthcoming period:

- thoroughly apply the relevant acts in practice (especially the state aid act),
- in the field of state aid, aid schemes need to be approved, the State Aid Office should improve co-operation with all state aid grantors, including the Ministry of Finance, an adequate notification system of the State Aid Office should be established,
- the State Aid Office should devote more attention in the privatisation process and aid schemes,
- ensure systematic consultations between state aid grantors and the State Aid Office,
- measures relating to investment incentives and investment promotion must be in line with EC state aid principles.

Priority tasks:

Antitrust

- 6.1 Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for vertical agreements (Anti-monopoly Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: January
Entry into force: 1 December 2002
- 6.2. Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for motor vehicles distribution and maintenance agreements (Anti-monopoly Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: January
Entry into force: 1 December 2002
- 6.3. Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for specialisation agreements (Anti-monopoly Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 December 2002
- 6.4. Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for research and development agreements (Anti-monopoly Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 December 2002
- 6.5. Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for agreements in the insurance sector (Anti-monopoly Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: September
Entry into force: 1 December 2002
- 6.6. Issue a governmental ordinance on the simplified procedure for the assessment of certain concentrations (Anti-monopoly Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: September

Entry into force: 1 December 2002

- 6.7. Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for agreements between line carriers (Anti-monopoly Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: September
Entry into force: 1 December 2002
- 6.8. Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for technology transfer agreements (Anti-monopoly Office)
Draft 2002 PGLT: September
Entry into force: 1 December 2002
- 6.9. Adopt a more deterrent sanctioning policy as regards antitrust (Anti-monopoly Office)
Date: continuous

State aid

- 6.10. Align incompatible aid schemes following consultations with the European Commission (State Aid Office)
Date: 30 July 2002
- 6.11. Strengthen the administrative capacity of the State Aid Office with emphasis on the need to recruit competent and qualified staff in accordance with Resolution No. 702/2001 of 18 July 2001 (State Aid Office)
Control date: 31 January 2002
- 6.12. Complete the state aid inventory in accordance with EU rules (State Aid Office)
Date: 31 March 2002
- 6.13. Create a methodical procedure for the notification system for the granting of state aid (State Aid Office)
Date: 31 March 2002

Chapter 7: Agriculture

The Report concludes that, except in the veterinary sector, Slovakia has made little progress in the transposition and implementation of the relevant *acquis*. The Report also points out shortcomings and contains recommendations stated below:

- little progress in the implementation of measures related to the EAGGF and the need to complete the process of national accreditation of the SAPARD Agency,
- no significant progress in the introduction of the IACS; the need to intensify efforts aimed at its establishment and draw up a detailed strategy, including a precise timetable for establishing the necessary elements of the IACS,
- no significant progress as regards trade mechanisms and quality policy,
- little progress has been achieved in the legislation organising the various markets, the relevant legislation needs to be completed; the SAMO needs to be made operational; the model for the registration and inspections of vineyards needs to be completed; the registration of vineyards across the whole territory should be started; a central laboratory for the inspection of milk and dairy products needs to be set up; and, market intervention systems should be established in line with the *acquis*,
- limited progress can be reported in the field of rural development and forestry, there is a need to carry out delimitation of Less Favoured Agricultural Areas (LFAs) and introduce agro-environmental schemes,
- considerable progress can be identified in the veterinary sector, however, the implementation of veterinary legislation has to be assured, an amendment to the veterinary care act needs to be adopted, the introduction of the movement control system needs to be completed, and the Central Register for Cattle and the register of breeding data need to be put in place.
- no progress has been made with regard to the establishment of Border Inspection Posts (BIP) at the future external borders of the EU, substantial efforts needs to be made to complete construction of the Vyšné Nemecké BIP and start the construction of the remaining BIPs,
- some progress has been made in the phytosanitary sector, there is a need to strengthen administrative capacity, introduce the EC plant health system, acquaint inspectors, producers and traders with the system, establish inspection bodies, including border phytosanitary stations, and upgrade the food-processing establishments so as to ensure that they respect EC standards,
- the need to strengthen administrative capacities, chiefly of the Ministry of Agriculture,
- the need to take urgent action to speed up the preparation for the implementation of the *acquis*.

Priority tasks:

7.1. Adopt a new veterinary care act (Ministry of Agriculture)

Draft 2002 PGLT: February

Entry into force: 1 April 2002

7.2. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 330/1991 Coll. on Landscaping, Settlement of Land Ownership, Land Offices, the Land Fund, and Land Associations (Ministry of Agriculture).

Draft 2002 PGLT: March

Date: 1 July 2002

7.3. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 180/1995 Coll. on Certain Measures for the Settlement of Land Ownership (Ministry of Agriculture)

Draft 2002 PGLT: March
Date: 1 July 2002

- 7.4. Adopt an act on the leasing of agricultural land (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Date: 1 August 2002
- 7.5. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 240/1998 Coll. on Agriculture and on Amendment and Supplementation of Other Laws (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: November
Date: 1 January 2003
- 7.6. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 291/1996 Coll. on Plant Varieties and Seeds (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Date: 1 August 2002
- 7.7. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 224/1998 Coll. on Organic Farming and the Production of Bio-foodstuffs (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: March
Date: 1 July 2002
- 7.8. Adopt an act amending and supplementing Act No. 332/1996 Coll. on Viticulture and Wine Production (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 7.9. Issue the principles for the organisation of markets in selected agricultural products in accordance with the act on the organisation of the market (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: May
Date: 1 July 2002
- 7.10. Issue 61 approximation ordinances to the veterinary care act (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 1 January 2003
- 7.11. Issue market rules for individual commodities (in the form of approximation ordinances of the Government and related decrees) (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 7.12. Issue the statute of the Intervention Agency (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 1 March 2002
- 7.13. Elaborate a proposal to address the financial and institutional framework for the completion of the vineyard register in accordance with the conclusions of screening (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 1 February 2002
- 7.14. Ensure the submission of an official request for the confirmation of the national accreditation of the SAPARD Agency (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance)
Date: 1 February 2002

- 7.15. Introduce the IACS: prepare a thorough and detailed strategy, including a precise timetable for establishing the necessary elements of a functional IACS (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 31 March 2002
- 7.16. Fully equip the National Reference Laboratory for Milk and Dairy Products and put it into routine operation (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 1 July 2002
- 7.17. Elaborate and approve the Agro-environmental Programme (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment)
Date: 1 July 2002
- 7.18. Complete the Central Register for Cattle (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 7.19. Complete, fully technically equip and put into operation the border veterinary and phytosanitary station in Vyšné Nemecké in accordance with EC requirements (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 1 October 2002
- 7.20. Organise seminars and training for phytosanitary inspectors, producers and traders on the application of the approximated legislation in the field of phytosanitary protection (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: 31 December 2002
- 7.21. In conformity with the SAPARD programme, create conditions for upgrading food-processing establishments with respect to EC food safety standards (Ministry of Agriculture)
Date: continuous, control date for submitted projects: 1 July 2002

Chapter 8: Fisheries

The report concludes that the fisheries policy is partly aligned to the *acquis*. Further progress is needed in legislative transposition and the administrative capacity necessary to implement the Common Fisheries Policy. The Report draws attention to the following shortcomings and measures that need to be taken in the future:

- adoption and implementation of the fisheries act
- adoption and implementation of an amendment to the veterinary care act
- training of the officials in charge of the control of imports of fish and fish products and its practical implementation
- strengthening of the administrative capacity of institutions involved in this sector, especially as regards control of the observance of Common Fisheries Policy requirements upon import and transit, and recruitment of qualified staff.

Priority tasks:

- 8.1. Strengthen the fisheries department at the Ministry of Agriculture with a further 2 employees
Date: 31 July 2002
- 8.2. Strengthen the personnel of institutions involved in the control of fish and fish products
Date: 31 July 2002

Chapter 9: Transport policy

Further progress has been made by Slovakia in aligning with the *acquis* in this chapter. The National Regional Development Plan for the 2001-2006 Period and the New Project for the Construction of Motorways and High Speed Roads have been adopted. At the beginning of 2001, approximately 45% of the total planned motorway and high-speed road network was in operation. The Slovak Republic signed the INTERBUS agreement and new legislation on motor vehicles registration entered into force. The privatisation of 17 regional bus companies has started. As concerns rail transport, the Project for Transformation and Restructuring of Slovak Railways (ZRS), setting the conditions for liberalisation of the railways transport sector, was approved. New legislation entered into force, which, in line with the *acquis*, separates the railroad (infrastructure) from the provision of rail operator services. The Concept for the Development of Combined Transport with an Outlook to 2010 was approved. New legislation on combined transport entered into force. Acts on inland navigation and maritime navigation, together with their implementing regulations, were adopted.

The Report draws attention to the following shortcomings and measures that need to be taken:

- substantial legal alignment and strengthening of administrative capacity is necessary (social legislation, access to the profession, fiscal harmonisation, technical and safety standards)
- insufficient progress has been achieved in road transport
- no progress has been made in the establishment of the Rail Regulatory Authority
- requirements to ensure interoperability need to be implemented
- little progress has been achieved in the field of air transport as regards the implementation of safety requirements (Joint Aviation Requirements)

Priority tasks:

- 9.1 Adopt an amendment to Road Transport Act No. 168/1996 Coll. (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 9.2. Implement measures falling under negotiation chapter 9 "Transport policy" resulting from the document Analysis of the Requirements Arising from the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law - approved by the Government on 18 July 2001 (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Date: 1 January 2002
- 9.3. Implement interoperability requirements (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Date: 1 January 2003
- 9.4 Create the regulatory authority for rail transport (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Date: 1 July 2003

Chapter 10: Taxation

Slovakia has made limited progress under this chapter and efforts need to be intensified in each area related to this chapter. Slovakia has achieved only little progress in the approximation of legislation. No progress was made in the area of direct taxation and VAT. Certain progress has been achieved in the field of excise duties.

It is necessary to intensify efforts in the area of transposition of the relevant *acquis* into the Slovak legislation.

Slovakia has advanced more in the field of tax administration, however, it is necessary to intensify efforts related to the strengthening of the Central Tax Directorate and building of the information system, as well as to strengthen the overall administrative capacity of tax administration.

Priority tasks:

- 10.1. Adopt an Act on International Assistance in Tax Administration (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 July 2002
- 10.2. Adopt an amendment to Value Added Tax Act No. 289/1995 Coll. (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 10.3. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 310/1993 Coll. on Excise Duties on Beer (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 10.4. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 309/1993 Coll. on Excise Duties on Wine (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 10.5. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 229/1995 Coll. on Excise Duties on Alcohol (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 10.6. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 312/1993 Coll. on Excise Duties on Tobacco and Tobacco Products (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 10.7. Ensure the full functionality of the tax information system, its interconnection with the customs administration information system and mutual compatibility with EC systems (Ministry of Finance)
Control date: June 2002
- 10.8. Strengthen the administrative capacities at the finance ministry's tax section and tax and customs administration in accordance with the document "Analysis of the Requirements

Arising from the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law" (Ministry of Finance)
Date: 1 January 2002 and throughout 2002

Chapter 11: Economic and monetary union

The Slovak Republic's legislation in this area is in line with the *acquis*. An amendment to the Act on the National Bank of Slovakia, which is fully in line with the *acquis*, was adopted. Its adoption ensured the independence of the National Bank of Slovakia and the prohibition of direct public sector financing by the central bank.

Medium term fiscal planning continuous to be a matter of priority. It is required to further strengthen specialised departments at the Ministry of Finance that will be responsible for the implementation of domestic economic policy in the EU environment.

Priority tasks^{*}:

- 11.1. Submit the notification of fiscal debt and deficit to the European Commission (Ministry of Finance)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 11.2. Submit an update of the Pre-accession Economic Programme to the European Commission (Ministry of Finance)
Date: 15 August 2002
- 11.3. Strengthen the Financial Policy Institute of the Ministry of Finance with 2 employees for macroeconomic analyses and planning (Ministry of Finance)
Date: by 1 April 2002 (1 employee)
Date: by 1 July 2002 (1 employee)

^{*} The primary condition for participation in the economic and monetary union is the achievement of compliance with the *acquis* in the field of free movement of capital

Chapter 12: Statistics

The EC Report concludes that overall there have been good advances in the field of statistics. It also states the following:

- Slovakia needs to finalise the process of harmonising the legislation
- the quality and coverage of the statistics, in general, needs to be improved
- as regards national accounts statistics, improvement is still needed in regional accounts, and annual and quarterly national accounts
- concerning external trade statistics, the INTRASTAT system has to be implemented by the date of accession
- policies aimed at improving recruitment and retention of skilled staff should be applied at the Statistical Office.

Priority tasks

- 12.1. Preparation of the plan for the implementation of the INTRASTAT system (Statistical Office)
Date: 31 July 2002
- 12.2. Implement measures falling under NP 12 resulting from the document Analysis of the Requirements Arising from the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law - approved by the Government on 18.7.2001 (Statistical Office)
Date: Continuous, control date: 31 July 2002

Chapter 13: Social policy and employment

The Regular Report states that considerable progress was achieved in terms of transposing the *acquis*, notably in the field of labour law and health and safety at work. The Slovak Republic should accomplish the following in 2002:

- further widen the scope of social dialogue to economic and financial issues, increase the participation of social partners in the formulation of budgetary, employment and macroeconomic policies, improve social dialogue in the public sector, and strengthen bipartite social dialogue, in particular at the level of SMEs,
- adopt anti-discrimination legislation
- adopt measures to reduce the unemployment rate with a view to the structural problems in the labour market, stimulate mobility and flexibility of the labour market, further develop active employment policy in line with the European Employment Strategy and the Joint Assessment of Employment Priorities, and improve the co-ordination of activities between the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, National Labour Office and other authorities responsible for regional development and the implementation of the National Employment Strategy
- improve Slovakia's preparedness for the participation in the European Social Fund and define the competences of the relevant bodies, including their co-ordination
- adopt a national strategy aimed at Slovakia's participation in the European social inclusion strategy
- adopt legal standards in the field of public health and monitor the health of the Slovak population, including surveillance and control of communicable diseases; develop infrastructure for the implementation of the *acquis* on tobacco
- continue to adopt legal norms in the field of health and safety at work, reinforce the administrative capacity of the National Labour Inspectorate and regional labour inspectorates, and implement further measures to improve inspection and surveillance
- reinforce the administrative capacity of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, which takes the lead in the development of many areas of social policy; take a strategic approach to the division of competencies with the Ministry of Health; and, improve the co-ordination between ministries and other institutions.

Priority tasks:

13.1. Adopt a new health insurance act (Ministry of Health)

Task 2.7. from 2001

Draft 2002 PGLT: March

Entry into force: 1 July 2002

13.2. Adopt a new social insurance act - first pillar (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)

Task 2.8. from 2001

Draft 2002 PGLT: April

Entry into force: 1 July 2003

13.3. Adopt the legislative objective for an act on capitalisation pension insurance - second pillar of the social insurance act (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)

Draft 2002 PGLT: April

Entry into force: 1 July 2003

13.4. Adopt an antidiscrimination act implementing directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC (Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development in co-

operation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 July 2003

- 13.5. Issue a governmental ordinance on the minimum safety and health requirements for work in explosive atmospheres (1999/92/EC) (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Draft 2002 PGLT: December
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 13.6. Issue a governmental ordinance on the conditions for the provision of personal protective equipment (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Draft 2002 PGLT: August
Entry into force: 1 September 2002
- 13.7. Submit a document defining the competences of the ESF Management Unit and the implementation units at the National Labour Office (NLO) and Ministry of Education to the Government for assessment (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in co-operation with the NLO and Ministry of Education)
Date: 1 March 2002
- 13.8. Ratify ILO Convention No 180 on Seafarers' Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships and ratify the Protocol of 1996 to the Merchant Shipping Convention (Minimum Standards) (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: 1 January 2003
- 13.9. Elaborate a national strategy focusing on the Slovak Republic's participation in the European social inclusion strategy, including a timetable for the preparation of the National Programme for the Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion until 2005 (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: 1 September 2002
- 13.10. Prepare a timetable for the elaboration of the National Social Protection Programme until 2005 (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: 1 July 2002
- 13.11. Elaborate a system of monitoring and a network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases compatible with the EU network (Ministry of Health)
Date: 1 July 2002
- 13.12. Elaborate a system for health monitoring to obtain data on health and indicators comparable with EU health monitoring systems (Ministry of Health)
Date: 1 November 2002
- 13.13. Update the measures within the National Employment Plan and implement European Employment Principles into the National Employment Plan (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: 2002 - 2004

- 13.14. Manage Euro-integration preparations and the preparation of projects within the framework of the European Social Fund (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: 2002 – 2004
- 13.15. Complete the implementation agency for the ESF, including the reinforcement of administrative structures (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: 1 September 2002
- 13.16. Create personnel and material conditions for the implementation of medical assessment activities and fully adapt this system to Slovakia's environment - within the framework of the preparations, strengthen the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family with 4 persons in 2002 (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: continuous
- 13.17. Reinforce the general judicial system with labour and social senates (Ministry of Justice)
Control date: 1 July 2002
- 13.18. Build a Labour Protection Education and Information Centre to improve basic and further training of labour inspectors and labour inspectorates' staff, training of company managers, methodical guidance for the training of employees in the field of work safety and other related activities (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in co-operation with the National Labour Inspectorate)
Date: continuous
- 13.19. Elaborate the National Programme for Safety and Health at Work (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)
Date: 1 July 2002

Chapter 14: Energy

Overall, the Slovak Republic has fairly well advanced in the area of energy. In particular, the legislative framework for regulation in networked sectors and emergency oil stocks has been established, the preparation of the internal energy market has advanced, energy prices became more realistic, and the standard of nuclear safety has improved. Plans for the privatisation of Slovak Gas Company, Transpetrol, the national energy company Slovenske Elektrárne and regional distribution companies have been adopted.

The Slovak Republic has to make continuing efforts to ensure that it is in a position to comply with the energy *acquis* in the medium-term. The Report draws attention to the following shortcomings and measures that need to be taken:

- continue to build up emergency oil stocks
- ensure the necessary infrastructure for the storage of emergency oil stocks
- strengthen the institutional capacity of the State Material Reserves Administration
- create efficient mechanisms enabling the newly-created Regulatory Authority (established in August 2001) to operate in accordance with EU directives
- establish an independent transmission system operator
- eliminate price distortions
- take concrete steps to support energy efficiency as a matter of priority
- reinforce the administrative and financial capacity of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority
- implement the EU Council's specific measures to ensure the safe operation of the Bohunice V-1 NPP until its final closure, and of Bohunice V-2 and Mochovce NPP, as well as other nuclear installations
- ensure compliance with Euratom requirements and procedures
- seek longer term solutions in connection with burnt fuel and radioactive waste.

Priority tasks:

- 14.1. Strengthen the administrative capacity of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority in accordance with Governmental Resolution No. 702/2001 (Nuclear Regulatory Authority)
Date: 31 January 2002
- 14.2. Strengthen the administrative capacity of the State Material Reserves Administration in accordance with Governmental Resolution No. 702/2001 (State Material Reserves Administration)
Date: 31 January 2002
- 14.3. Liberalise the Slovak Republic's power sector on the basis of the Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic, which was approved by the Government in January 2000 (Ministry of Economy)
Date: 2003
- 14.4. Build up the stocks of crude oil and petroleum products in accordance with the adopted Act on Emergency Stocks of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products and assure its implementation in the field of addressing oil crises (State Material Reserves Administration)
Date: continuously until 2008, in 2002 the level corresponding to 38-days consumption needs to be achieved
- 14.5. Continue with the preparation of Bohunice NPP, V-1, units 1 and 2 decommissioning (Ministry of Economy)

Date: continuously

- 14.6. Continue with planning and observing the time-schedule of the plan for Bohunice V-2 NPP modernisation; modernisation should be implemented according to the time-schedule consistent with Agenda 2000 requirements (2004 - 2007) (Ministry of Economy)

Date: continuously

- 14.7. Implement the remaining safety enhancement measures planned for units 1 and 2 in Mochovce (Ministry of Economy)

Date: continuous

- 14.8. Prepare Euratom safeguards, in particular concerning the reporting of nuclear material flows and inventories directly by the persons or structures operating nuclear installations or storing nuclear material (Nuclear Regulatory Authority)

Date: 2002

Chapter 15: Industrial policy

Slovakia's industrial policy is by and large in conformity with the principles of EC industrial policy, i.e. market-based, stable and predictable. Foreign direct investments dramatically increased last year. Since the last EC Regular Report, Slovakia has concentrated on bank and enterprise privatisation, and to some extent on investment promotion. After extensive internal discussions and consultation with the EC, Act on Investment Incentives was approved as well as Act on Industrial Parks. The adopted legislation remarkably affected investment conditions in Slovakia. These will be practically comparable with those in Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland. The banking sector is almost completely in private hands. The government has set a tight schedule aimed at accelerating the privatisation of companies.

The Report points out the following shortcomings:

- no major development was recorded with respect to the document Elaboration of the EU Industrial Policy Principles to the Conditions in Slovakia
- the administrative structure is highly fragmented
- Bankruptcy and Composition Act is not implemented properly, due to the weak administrative capacity of bankruptcy courts

Position of the Ministry of Economy: The Ministry finds the expression "to some extent" to be inadequate and believes that the measures taken to promote investment were significant.

Priority tasks:

- 15.1. Submit to the Government the industrial policy priorities for the 2002-2004 period
(Ministry of Economy)
Date: 30 June 2002
- 15.2. Submit to the Government a report on the state of the business environment, which will assess the implementation of the recommendations from the document Improvement of Legal, Regulatory and Tax Frameworks for the Support of Investment (Deputy Prime Minister for Economy, Ministry of Economy)
Date: 31 August 2002
- 15.3. Submit to the Government an analysis of the administrative structures affecting the business environment in Slovakia (Slovenská konsolidačná, Slovenská záručná, Office for the Regulation of Networked Sectors) (Ministry of Economy)
Date: 30 June 2002

Chapter 16: Small and medium-size undertakings

Since the last EC Regular Report, Slovakia has made progress in the adjustment of its policy in the area of small and medium-size undertakings and in improving the business environment.

The Report draws attention to a fundamental obstacle, which is access to finance.

Priority tasks:

- 16.1. Submit the document “Analysis of the Development of Small and Medium-size Undertakings and Proposal for Changes in the System of Support for Small and Medium-size Undertakings” for governmental debate (Ministry of Economy)
Date: 31 March 2002

Chapter 17: Science and research

The Slovak Republic has made further progress in this area. The Act on the Agency for the Promotion of Science and Technology has been in force since 1st July 2001. The Slovak Republic has continued to participate successfully in the 5th Framework Programme of the EU for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities and the Euratom Framework Programme. The full utilisation of the opportunities provided by EU programmes, however, requires the strengthening of administrative and financial capacities.

For the further development of this sector, it is necessary to increase gross domestic expenditure on science and technology.

The Act on the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Act on Science and Technology and the Act on University Education are in the closing phase of the legislative process (they will undergo their first reading in the Parliament by the end of 2001, their second reading in the Parliament is anticipated at the beginning of 2002).

Priority tasks:

- 17.1. Submit a draft strategy for Slovakia's participation in the 6th Framework Programme of the EU for Research and Development and participation in the activities of international science and research organisations (CERN, JRC, etc.) to the government (Ministry of Education in co-operation with the central state administration authorities)

Date: June 2002

Chapter 18: Education, vocational training and youth

The Slovak Republic has joined the second generation of the Community programmes Socrates and Leonardo programmes and the new Youth programme. It is continuing its reform of the education and training system. The shift to the efficient distribution of competencies in the area of the training-education system's management is important. Particular attention is being paid to interaction between the training-education system and the labour market.

It is, however, important to continue with our efforts, so that the directive regarding the education of children of migrating workers is fully transposed and implemented. Vocational training will have to reflect the needs of regional development programmes to a greater extent, it is necessary to continue the further training or retraining of the workforce in line with the principles of life-long learning, and increase the proportion of mentally and physically handicapped people and Roma in the training-education process.

The Act on University Education is in the closing phase of the legislative process (first reading in the National Council's November session).

Priority tasks:

18.1. Adopt the Act on training and education (schools act) (Ministry of Education)

Draft 2002 Plan of the Government's Legislative Tasks: April

Entry into force: 1 September 2002

Chapter 19: Telecommunications and information technologies

Slovakia has made considerable progress in the adoption and transposition of the *acquis*. Slovakia has progressed in the implementation of the relevant *acquis* in the area of the liberalisation of the telecommunications market. The Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications has issued several implementing regulations to Act on Telecommunications. Fixed network penetration has been stabilised. The mobile sector has maintained its rapid growth. The Government has adopted a plan to release the GSM and UMTS frequencies. The process of price re-balancing has continued and the incumbent has adopted a more commercial approach. The Government has adopted a Country Informational Policy in Slovakia. The Telecommunications Office functions as an independent authority and performs a wide range of regulatory activities. Licences for the provision of wireless access have been issued.

The Report points out the following shortcomings:

- coverage in the area of Internet access is relatively low
- No progress was recorded in the area of the liberalisation of postal services; current legislation in the area of postal services is still not in compliance with the *acquis*.
- the number of staff for the area of telecommunications is inadequate.

Priority tasks:

- 19.1. Adopt an amendment to the Act on Telecommunications - secure compliance with the *acquis* (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Draft 2002 PGLT: March
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 19.2. Elaborate a Country Informational Strategy and submit it for Governmental debate (Ministry of Education)
Date: 1 February 2002
- 19.3. Secure personnel and finance for the activity of the regulatory authority for posts (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Date: 1 January 2002
- 19.4. Implement measures within the framework of negotiation chapter 19 Telecommunications and information technologies arising from the document Analysis of Requirements to Secure the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law adopted by the Government on 18.7.2001 (Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Date: 1 January 2002

Chapter 20: Culture and audio-visual policy

Since the previous EC Regular Report in 2000, the Slovak Republic has made significant progress in the area of culture and audio-visual policy.

In relation to *audio-visual policy*, on 14th September 2000, the parliament adopted a new Broadcasting and Retransmission Act, which entered into force on 4th October 2000 and was amended in April 2001. This new act harmonised the Slovak legislation with the EU law (EU “Television Without Frontiers” Directive). The Slovak Republic ratified the Amending Protocol to the CE European Convention on Transfrontier Television in October 2000.

The implementation of the EU “Television Without Frontiers” Directive No. 97/36/EC, which amends Directive 89/552/EEC on the co-ordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting, into the Slovak legislation means a considerable widening of the Council’s activities - oversight of the observance of other provisions of the law (European production, public access to major events, right to news bulletins, protection of children and adolescents) and at the same time the creation of conditions for the support of European production, introduction of programme labelling systems, compilation of lists of major events and securing information exchange between individual state and regulatory bodies. *For this reason it is necessary to complete the technical framework and staff at the Council for the full implementation of the acquis, because it is necessary to change the licence conditions of all licence holders on the basis of the law.*

On the basis of the document “Analysis of Requirements to Secure the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law” adopted by the Government on 18th July 2001, the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission was allocated 2 employees and adequate finance for them.

For the area of culture, as of 1st April 2001 Slovakia established a Cultural Contact Point (CCP) at the Ministry of Culture as a management centre for the EU “Culture 2000” programme, while the issue of securing its personnel and finance will be implemented from 1st January 2002 on the basis of the document “Analysis of Requirements to Secure the Administrative Needs of the *Acquis*” adopted by the government on 18th July 2001. In this document, the CCP is allocated 2 employees and adequate finance for them.

Administrative capacity also needs to be strengthened in the area of culture in view of the fact that in October 2001, the Slovak Republic opened the accession process to another EU programme in the area of culture: “MEDIA Plus”.

Priority tasks:

- 20.1. Complete material and administrative needs of the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission (in line with Governmental Resolution No. 702/2001 Coll. of 18th July 2001) (Chairman of the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission)
Date: 31 January 2002
- 20.2. Complete material and administrative needs of the Cultural Contact Point (in line with Governmental Resolution No. 702/2001 Coll. of 18th July 2001) (Ministry of Culture)
Date: 31 January 2002

Chapter 21: Regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments

The Report states that little progress has been made in preparing for the implementation of structural policies. The Report also points out the following needs and shortcomings:

- the National Development Plan needs further elaboration, namely in the introduction of ex-ante evaluation, so that it fulfils the requirements given by the framework regulation on structural funds,
- the level of projects' technical preparation needs to be increased,
- it is necessary to establish a clear and reasonable division of competencies at the central level and between the central and regional level in the framework of the implementation of structural funds,
- administrative capacity remains a matter of major concern, the professional level and training of staff are the key elements; units with key responsibility for the management and implementation of structural funds should be reinforced in particular; there are no corresponding structures on a regional level,
- current inter-ministerial co-ordination is very weak and needs to be improved significantly,
- ESF - the necessary structures and functional arrangements has only been partially developed, particularly the monitoring and evaluation system (Chapter 13),
- some progress has been made in the area of financial management and control, but it is necessary to establish corresponding systems and approaches for financial management and control to meet the requirements of regulations on structural funds, internal control units at ministries and train internal auditors (Chapter 28),
- it is necessary to exert more effort in the area of regional statistics, especially ex-ante evaluation; the systems of collection and processing of relevant statistical data for the purposes of ex-ante evaluation need to be improved.

Priority tasks:

- 21.1. Adopt a governmental ordinance on financial management in the implementation of the Phare programme (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: July
Entry into force: 1 August 2002
- 21.2. Adopt a governmental ordinance on financial management in the implementation of the ISPA programme (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: September
Entry into force: 1 October 2002
- 21.3. Adopt a governmental ordinance on financial management in the implementation of the SAPARD programme (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: October
Entry into force: 1 November 2002
- 21.4. Complete the management and payment authorities for the implementation of structural funds at relevant ministries (Ministry of: Construction and Regional Development; Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Agriculture; Transport, Posts and Telecommunications; and Environment)
Date: 31 December 2002
- 21.5. Make a binding decision on the final form of the National Regional Development Plan (decision between the SPD and CSF) (Ministry of Construction and Regional Development)
Date: 31 January 2002

- 21.6. Make a final decision on division at the level of NUTS II regions (Deputy Prime Minister for Minority Rights and Regional Development, Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development, Statistical Office)
Date: 28 February 2002
- 21.7. Update joint programme documents on Slovakia's borders within the framework of Phare CBC programmes (Ministry of Construction and Regional Development)
Date: by 31 December 2002
- 21.8. Complete the Regional Development Implementation Agency, reinforcement by 10 expert staff¹ (Ministry of Construction and Regional Development)
Date: 1 March 2002 (4 employees), 1 July 2002 (6 employees)
- 21.9. Co-ordinate the implementation of individual sectoral and regional operational programmes in the National Regional Development Plan (Ministry of Construction and Regional Development)
Date: continuous, control date: 1 July 2002
- 21.10. Elaborate a system for the financial management of structural funds (Ministry of Finance, Construction and Regional Development; Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Transport, Posts and Telecommunications; the Environment; Economy; and Agriculture)
Date of submission to the government: December 2002
Entry into force: date of accession to the EU
- 21.11. Adopt measures to improve inter-ministerial co-ordination in relation to preparation for structural funds (Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Deputy Prime Minister for Minority Rights and Regional Development, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development)
Date: continuous
- 21.12. Submit a proposal for the specification of competencies at the central level and between the central and regional level in the framework of the implementation of structural funds to the government (guarantor: Ministry of Construction and Regional Development, co-guarantors: Ministry of Finance; Agriculture; Labour, Social Affairs and Family; and Economy)
Date: 30 April 2002
- 21.13. Establish systems for the monitoring and evaluation of structural funds (guarantor: Ministry of Construction and Regional Development, co-guarantors: Ministry of Finance; Agriculture; Labour, Social Affairs and Family; and Economy)
Date: 31 December 2002
- 21.14. Strengthen administrative structures for the implementation of EU legislation at the central and regional levels with emphasis on the area of monitoring and evaluation (Ministry of Construction and Regional Development)
Date: 31 December 2002

¹ implementation of measures within the framework of Chapter 21 arising from the document Analysis of Requirements to Secure the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law - adopted by the government on 18.7.2001

- 21.15. Strengthen the level of technical preparation of projects (project pipeline) to be financed from EU structural funds, implement technical assistance in the given area at the regional level (Ministry of Construction and Regional Development)
Date: 31 December 2002

Chapter 22: Environment

Further progress was made in the area of environment in the period covered by the 2001 Regular Report of the European Commission. In particular, schedules for transposition and comprehensive implementation plans have been prepared. Progress was made in the area of horizontal legislation, air protection, waste, chemical substances and preparations, and protection from ionising radiation. The Report points out the following shortcomings and measures, which need to be implemented:

- in the medium-term provide for funding to ensure the implementation of the environmental *acquis*
- complete the transposition of the *acquis* mainly in the following areas:
 - genetically modified organisms
 - air protection
 - water quality
 - packaging and packaging waste
 - waste management
 - nature protection
 - industrial pollution control
 - noise
- continue with the implementation of legislation covering all areas
- strengthen the administrative capacity in the area of waste recycling
- thoroughly strengthen the administrative capacity securing the implementation of legislation, particularly in the following areas:
 - water protection
 - waste management
 - industrial pollution control
 - risk management
- strengthen the administrative capacity of the Ministry of Environment, *inter alia* departments responsible for the creation of implementation plans and financial strategies
- strengthen the administrative capacity responsible for:
 - the development and implementation of necessary environmental projects for adoption of the *acquis*
 - the use funds made available to Slovakia for this purpose by the EU and others

Priority tasks:

- 22.1. Amendment to Waste Act with the aim of full harmonisation with Council Regulation 93/259/EEC, Commission Decision 94/721/EEC and Commission Decision 94/774/EEC (Ministry of Environment)
Draft 2002 PGLT: December
Entry into force: 1st quarter 2003
- 22.2. Air Protection Act (Ministry of Environment)
Draft 2002 PGLT: February
Entry into force: 1 December 2002
- 22.3. Act on Packaging and Packaging Waste (Ministry of Environment)
Draft 2002 PGLT: July
Entry into force: 2nd half of 2002
- 22.4. Amendment to Nature and Landscape Protection Act (Ministry of Environment)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April

Entry into force: 1 January 2003

- 22.5. Act on System of Environmentally Oriented Management and Audit (Ministry of Environment)
Draft 2002 PGLT: March
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 22.6. Act on Environmental Labelling of Products (Ministry of the Environment)
Draft 2002 PGLT: March
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 22.7. Act on Application of Sewage Sludge and Bottom Sediments to Soil transposing Directive 86/278/EEC (Ministry of Agriculture)
Draft 2002 PGLT: November
Entry into force: 1. January 2003
- 22.8. Governmental Regulation through which the water pollution limit indicators are laid down (Ministry of Environment)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: in relation to the entry into force of Act on the Protection and Handling of Waters
- 22.9. Transformation of the Governmental Regulation No. 92/1996 Coll. into a decree of the Ministry of Environment through which certain provisions of the Air Protection Act are implemented and issue a decree of the Ministry of Environment on air quality (Ministry of Environment),
Entry into force: in relation to the entry into force of Air Protection Act
- 22.10. Issue a decree on measuring the amounts of discharged pollutants, on methods for the measuring, monitoring and verification of data on the observance of set pollution limits and general conditions of operation, and on requirements for technical equipment for the monitoring of emissions
Entry into force: in relation to the entry into force of Air Protection Act
- 22.11. Issue 6 decrees implementing Act on the Prevention of Major Accidents involving Dangerous Substances (Ministry of Environment)
Entry into force: in relation to the entry into force of Act on the Prevention of Major Accidents involving Dangerous Substances
- 22.12. Set up a unit under the Slovak Environmental Agency to archive EIA documentation and secure availability of information in accordance to the law, i.e. on the assessments from the last 15 years
Control date: June 2002
- 22.13. Implement the EU NATURA 2000 Project
Data processing deadline: March 2003
Date of the SCI list's submission to the European Commission: December 2003

Chapter 23: Consumers and Health Protection

The Report states that some progress has been made, mainly in the non-safety consumer protection area. It states that there is already a certain consumer protection system in Slovakia. It is, however, important to continue to acquaint consumers intensively with their rights and their application. The Commission negatively assesses the fact that consumer organisations still do not have a sufficient legal status and can not represent consumers in court and consumers can not effectively defend themselves.

The following is necessary in the near future:

- further progress in harmonisation in the following areas: product liability, indication of prices, injunctions and guarantees, time-sharing, unfair terms in consumer contracts,
- continue to build institutional conditions for market surveillance,
- increase consumers' knowledge of their rights and their application,
- improve the legal and social status of consumer organisations, which suffer from a lack of finance for their activities and can not represent citizens in court.

Priority tasks:

- 23.1. Adopt an amendment to the Civil Code incorporating Directive 94/47/EC on time-share and Directive 93/13/EC on unfair terms in consumer contracts (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 23.2. Adopt a governmental ordinance on access to consumer information on fuel economy and CO2 emissions in connection with the sale of new passenger vehicles (Ministry of Economy)
Draft 2002 PGLT: May
Entry into force: 1 July 2002

Chapter 24: Co-operation in the Fields of Justice and Home Affairs

The report states that Slovakia has made some positive progress, but must continue its intensive efforts in all areas within this chapter. Slovakia must consistently continue in the transposition and implementation of the *acquis communautaire* and secure administrative capacity for its effective application. The area of border control and combating organised crime must be focused on in particular.

Priority tasks:

- 24.1. Adopt an act on elections to the European Parliament (Ministry of Interior)
Draft 2002 PGLT: November
Entry into force: 1 January 2004
- 24.2. Adopt a new act on asylum (Ministry of Interior)
Draft 2002 PGLT: January
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 24.3. Elaborate a project for the issuance of EU format travel documents (Ministry of Interior)
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 24.4. Issue an internal regulation of the Ministry of the Interior on sectoral crisis management and implement the Joint Action of 15.10.1996 concerning anti-terrorist competencies and Declaration of 30 November 1993 on the financing of terrorism (Ministry of Interior)
Entry into force: 1 February 2002
- 24.5. Issue an internal regulation of the Ministry of the Interior on principles for the protection of personal data in police information systems (Ministry of Interior)
Entry into force: 1 March 2002
- 24.6. Modernise and strengthen the infrastructure of border crossings, improve the performance of authorities working at borders, complete technical equipment for the detection of illegal migrants with emphasis on the border with Ukraine (Ministry of Interior)
Date: 1 January 2003
- 24.7. Update and fully harmonise visa policy with the relevant *acquis*, complete the on-line system for the issuance of visas and their central register (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Date: 1 March 2003
- 24.8. Harmonise data protection with the *acquis* (especially the Army, Slovak Information Service, Railway Police, Court Warden Force, General Prosecutor's Office, and Customs Administration information systems) (Plenipotentiary for the Protection of Personal Data in Information Systems, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence, Head of the SIS, Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications, General Prosecutor)
Date: 1 January 2003
- 24.9. Set up a separate organisational unit within the Ministry of the Interior for co-operation with an independent control body for personal data protection in information systems (Ministry of Interior)
Date: by 1 March 2002

- 24.10. Update and thoroughly implement the comprehensive strategy for combating organised crime (Ministry of Interior)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 24.11. Intensify the fight against trafficking of human beings and secure a specialised office within the Police Force (Ministry of Interior)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 24.12. Strengthen capacity in the fight against money laundering and ensure the fulfilment of all FATF recommendations (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 24.13. Update and thoroughly implement the National Programme for the Fight Against Drugs (Deputy Prime Minister for Minority Rights and Regional Development)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 24.14. Secure co-operation with Europol by concluding an agreement on co-operation (Ministry of Interior)
Date: 1 January 2003
- 24.15. Join the Council of Europe Convention on Cyber-Crime (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior)
Date: 1 March 2003
- 24.16. Ensure a reduction in the functional overlap of competencies between the police and investigators (Ministry of Interior)
Date: 1 January 2003
- 24.17. Ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and related protocols (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice)
Date: 1 March 2003
- 24.18. Submit a report assessing the fulfilment of tasks arising from the Schengen *acquis* and draft update of the Schengen Action Plan for governmental session (Ministry of Interior in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice)
Date: 1 June 2002
- 24.19. Sign the 1980 Convention on International Access to Justice (Ministry of Justice)
Date: 1 September 2002

Chapter 25: Customs union

The Report states that Slovakia has made substantial progress in this area. The Report also states the following:

- only limited progress has been made in ensuring the connection of the national system to EC customs information systems, there is a need to provide for the development of IT systems enabling electronic data exchange between Slovakia and the EU,
- it is necessary to continue efforts to reduce waiting times at borders, to act in the field of the fight against customs fraud and economic crime, and improve co-operation with other enforcement bodies.

Priority tasks:

- 25.1. Continue the development of a customs information system compatible with EC systems (Ministry of Finance, Customs Authority)
Date: continuous, control date: September 2002

Chapter 26: External relations

According to the Regular Report, Slovakia is continuing the process of adopting the *acquis* in the area of common trade policy and the co-ordination of WTO and EU policies and development and humanitarian aid. The Regular Report emphasises the need to continue communication with the EU with the aim of:

- harmonising its commitments with EU international commitments in the area of trade
- opening negotiations on all bilateral agreements which are not in line with the conditions of EU membership
- informing the EU of all existing trade agreements or intentions to negotiate new agreements with third countries.

Priority tasks:

- 26.1. Access to the Agreement on Government Procurement. (Ministry of Economy in co-operation with the Public Procurement Office)
Date: 1 January 2003
- 26.2. Access to the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft (Ministry of Economy in co-operation with the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications)
Date: 1 January 2004
- 26.3. Fully harmonise the GSP scheme in co-ordination with the Czech Republic within the customs union (Ministry of Economy in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance)
Date: by 1 January 2004 at the latest
- 26.4. Prepare a revision of Slovakia's contractual framework with the aim of achieving the compliance of Slovakia's international commitments of an economic nature with the EU/EC contractual framework
(Deputy Prime Minister for Legislation in co-operation with central state administration authorities)
Control date: 1 January 2003

Chapter 27: Common foreign and security policy

The Slovak Republic has continued to align its foreign policy with that of the European Union and has participated constructively in the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. Slovakia is also continuing to develop relations with its neighbours both at bilateral and multilateral level.

The Regular Report recommends that the Slovak Republic:

- continues to maintain the orientation of its foreign policy in line with the EU
- exerts more effort in securing the implementation of EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports.

Priority tasks:

- 27.1. Prepare an analysis of the implementation of the EU Code of Conduct on Arm Exports
(Ministry of Foreign Affairs in co-operation with the Ministry of Economy)
Date: 1 April 2002
- 27.2. Prepare a revision of Slovakia's contractual framework with the aim of achieving the compliance of Slovakia's international commitments with the EU/EC contractual framework
(Deputy Prime Minister for Legislation in co-operation with central state administration authorities)
Control date: 1 January 2003

Chapter 28: Financial control

The Slovak Republic has made significant progress in this chapter. Progress has been made in the area of the adoption of legislation regarding public internal financial control (adopted act on financial control and internal audit). Functioning independent internal audit units need to be built at individual ministries and central state administration authorities.

Progress has also been made in the area of external financial control (strengthening of the Supreme Audit Office's legal powers). It is still necessary to make an effort to secure the SAO independence, mainly financially.

Slovakia must focus on the area of control of pre-accession instruments (and subsequently structural funds) and the area concerning the protection of the European Communities' financial interests. A mechanism for the rapid recovery of pre-accession funds needs to be built. It is necessary to adopt legislation enabling competent institutions to perform random controls, jointly with the EU when necessary.

Administrative capacity needs to be strengthened in the area of financial control. Insufficient progress has been made in the area of the accreditation of the SAPARD agency.

Priority tasks:

- 28.1. Prepare a Ministry of Finance Decree through which details of the performance of internal audit, the content of audit reports and the content of annual reports on the activities of internal auditors are laid down (Ministry of Finance)
Entry into force: 1 April 2002
- 28.2. Build a system for the permanent training and certification of financial controllers in the area of external financial control (Supreme Audit Office)
Date: 31 December 2002
- 28.3. Elaborate manuals for the performance of different types of internal audit (Ministry of Finance)
Date: 31 December 2002
- 28.4. Realise the complete establishment of the state treasury system in accordance with the approved timetable (Ministry of Finance)
Date: 31 December 2002
- 28.5. Start to build an on-line information connection between the Ministry of Finance, financial control offices and authorities for the implementation of legislation (central state administration authorities which are recipients of pre-accession assistance and future structural fund finance) (Ministry of Finance)
Control date: June 2002
- 28.6. Strengthen the administration at the unit responsible for the co-ordination of public internal financial control by 8 employees (Ministry of Finance)
Date: 1 January 2002

- 28.7. Secure the establishment of and administration capacities for internal audit units at ministries and selected central state administration authorities in line with the document “Analysis of Requirements to Secure the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law” adopted by the government on 18th July 2001 (individual ministers and heads of central state administration authorities)
Date of the units’ establishment: 1 January 2002
Date of securing personnel: 31 March 2002

Chapter 29: Financial and budgetary provisions

Some progress has been made in this chapter. The adopted amendment to the budgetary rules act has been positively assessed. Current progress is acceptable, although efforts need to be increased before Slovakia's accession to the EU.

Budgetary rules in Slovakia are satisfactory, but it is necessary to further align them with standards generally used in the Communities. Slovakia's plan to establish multi-year budgeting has been positively assessed, while within the framework of this, a medium-term financial outlook has already been introduced into the budgetary process and macroeconomic prognosis has been improved.

In view of this chapter's horizontal nature, it is necessary to strengthen administrative capacity in areas such as financial control, agriculture, taxes, customs union, and regional policy.

Priority tasks:

- 29.1. Adopt an amendment to Act No. 303/1995 Coll. on Budgetary Rules (amendment of financial relations to the European Communities budget) (Ministry of Finance)
Draft 2002 PGLT: April
Entry into force: 1 January 2003
- 29.2. Fully harmonise macro-economic statistics with the ESA 95 system (Statistical Office)
Date: 31 December 2002

Note:

The tasks with a highlighted background are unfulfilled Priority Tasks from 2001 which are not yet in the legislative process, and we therefore recommend that they are included in the 2002 Plan of the Government's Legislative Tasks.

The fulfilment of Priority Tasks in a certain stage of the legislative process will continue to be monitored in the regular Monitoring of Priority Tasks.

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
1.1.	Act on the return of unlawfully removed cultural goods implementing Council Directive 93/7/EEC	MC	1	12	13	15	17	18	1.10.2002
1.2.	Act amending and supplementing Act No. 140/1998 Coll. on Medicines and Medical Devices	MH	1	25	26	32	38	39	1.1.2003
1.3.	Act amending and supplementing Act No. 272/1994 Coll. on the Human Health Protection as amended	MH	1	31	32	38	44	45	1.1.2003
1.4.	Adopt an act on weapons and ammunition	MI	1	31	32	38	44	45	1.7.2003
1.5.	Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 243/2001 Coll. laying down the details of technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment for marine equipment	ÚNMS	1	5	6	12	18	-	1.11.2002
1.6.	Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 179/2001 Coll. laying down the details of technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment for civil use explosives	ÚNMS	1	5	6	12	18	-	1.11.2002
1.7.	Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 433/2000 Coll. laying down the details of technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment for hot water boilers fired with liquid or gaseous fuel	ÚNMS	1	5	6	12	18	-	1.11.2002
1.8.	Governmental ordinance laying down the technical requirements for transportable pressure vessels	MTPT	1	36	37	43	49	-	1.1.2003
1.9.	Governmental ordinance laying down the technical requirements for cableway installations designed to carry passengers	MTPT	1	2	3	4	5	-	1.1.2003
1.10.	Governmental ordinance laying down the technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment of pressure equipment	MLSAF	1	23	24	30	36	-	1. 10. 2002
1.11.	Governmental ordinance laying down the technical requirements for noise emission by equipment used outdoors	ÚNMS	1	2	3	4	5	-	1.2.2002
1.12.	Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 29/2001 Coll. laying down the details of technical requirements and procedures for conformity assessment for personal protective equipment	MLSAF	1	2	3	4	10	-	1.4.2002
1.13.	<i>Governmental ordinance on the method of provision and mediation of information</i>	ÚNMS	1	10	11	17	23	-	1.7.2002
1.14.	<i>Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 391/1999 Coll. on machinery</i>	ÚNMS	1	2	3	4	5	-	1.2.2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
1.15.	<i>Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 393/1999 Coll. on appliances burning gaseous fuels</i>	ÚNMS	1	2	3	4	5	-	1.2.2002
1.16.	<i>Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 399/1999 Coll. on non-automatic weighing instruments</i>	ÚNMS	1	2	3	4	5	-	1.2.2002
1.17.	<i>Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 392/1999 Coll. on low voltage electrical equipment</i>	ÚNMS	1	2	3	4	5	-	1.2.2002
1.18.	<i>Amendment to Governmental Ordinance No. 394/1999 Coll. on electromagnetic compatibility</i>	ÚNMS	1	2	3	4	5	-	1.2.2002
1.19.	<i>Amendment to the Food Code concerning the control of veterinary medicine residues</i>	MH	1	48	49	-	-	-	1.1.2003
1.20.	Decree on clinical testing and good clinical practice	MH	1	20	21	-	-	-	1.6.2002
1.21.	Decree on good clinical practice and clinical testing of veterinary medicines to Act No. 140/1998 Coll.	MA	1	48	49	-	-	-	1.1.2003
1.22.	Decree: List of New Chemical Substances	MEc	1	22	23	-	-	-	1.7.2003
1.23.	Issue a decree on the methods of testing textile fibres	MEc	1	48	49	-	-	-	1.1.2003
1.24.	Ministry of Agriculture Order on the conditions for the preparation, release into circulation and use of medicated feedingstuffs	MA	1	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002
1.25.	Create a food surveillance authority	MA	1	-	-	-	-	-	related to the amendment to the foodstuffs act
1.26.	Implement measures falling under negotiation chapter 1 "Free movement of goods" resulting from the document Analysis of the Requirements Arising from the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law	ÚNMS	1	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002
1.27.	Building upon documents adopted in the field of the fight against corruption, submit to the Government a proposal for measures to improve the transparency of administrative procedures within the framework of free movement of goods vis-à-vis entrepreneurs	ÚNMS	1	-	-	-	-	-	1.5.2002
1.28.	Provide equipment and personnel for the operation of the Centre for Chemical Substances and Preparations	MH	1	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002
1.29.	Provide financial resources for the operation of the Centre	MF	1	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	in accordance with Act on Chemical Substances and Preparations								
1.30.	Complete the process of alignment of the Slovak legislation with the <i>acquis</i> in the field of agriculture and forestry tractors	MTPT MA	1	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2004
2.1.	<i>Adopt an act on the recognition of professional qualifications and designate the Centre for Equivalence of Diplomas as the contact point and a national co-ordinator for the general system directives</i>	<i>MEd</i>	2	3	4	6	8	9	<i>as of accession</i>
2.2.	Amendment to Act No. 123/1996 Coll. on Supplementary Pension Insurance as amended by Act No. 409/2000 Coll. – complete the alignment with Directive 98/49/EC	MLSAF	2	12	13	15	17	18	1.4.2002
2.3.	Amendment to Act No. 10/1992 Coll. on Private Veterinary Doctors and the Chamber of Veterinary Doctors	MA	2	31	32	38	44	45	1.1.2003
2.4.	Amendment to Act No. 138/1992 Coll. on Chartered Architects and Chartered Civil Engineers	MEn	2	31	32	38	44	45	1.1.2003
2.5.	Modify sectoral legal provisions regulating access to professions and professional activities falling under the general system	MLSAF MEd	2	-	-	-	-	-	continuous
2.6.	Initiate drafts of bilateral agreements with EU Member States on the possibilities of mutual access to employment	MLSAF	2	-	-	-	-	-	continuous
3.1.	Amendment to the Collective Investment Act No. 385/1999 Coll.	MF	3	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
3.2.	New Stock Exchange Act	MF	3	8	9	11	12	13	1.1.2003
3.3.	Amendment to Act No. 194/1990 Coll. on Lotteries	MF	3	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
3.4.	Act on Electronic Commerce	MEc, MJ MP's proposal	3	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003
3.5.	Extend the existing provisions concerning the rules for prudential business practice to include the relevant provisions governing supervision on a consolidated basis	MF NBS	3	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
3.6.	Strengthen the administrative capacity at the State Supervisory Body for Personal Data in Information Systems with 4 persons	plenipotent ary for the protection of personal	3	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
		data							
4.1.	Amendment to Foreign Exchange Act No. 202/1995 Coll.	MF	4	8	9	11	12	13	1.1.2003
4.2.	Act on Payments	MF, NBS	4	12	13	15	17	18	1.1.2003
4.3.	Amendment to Act No. 367/2000 Coll. on the Protection against the Legalisation of Proceeds from Crime	MI	4	39	40	41	47	48	1.7.2003
4.4.	Amendment to Act No. 229/1991 Coll. on the Settlement of Ownership Rights to Land and Other Agricultural Property as amended, or a new act governing ownership relations to land	MA	4	4	5	11	17	18	1.1.2004
5.1.	New act on accounting	MF	5	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
5.2.	Amendment to Act No. 527/1990 Coll. on Inventions, Industrial Designs and Rationalisation Proposals with aim of incorporating Council Directive No. 98/71/EC on the legal protection of designs	ÚPV	5	4	5	11	17	18	1.10.2002
5.3.	Amendment to the Commercial Code, or the Code of Civil Procedure, to incorporate Directive 2000/35/EC on combating late payment in commercial transactions	MJ	5	12	13	15	17	18	1.1.2003
5.4.	Elaborate a report on the implementation of the act on the fight against piracy and strengthen the administrative capacity in this respect, in particular on border crossings	MF CD	5	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
6.1.	Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for vertical agreements	PÚ	6	2	3	4	5	-	1.12.2002
6.2.	Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for motor vehicles distribution and maintenance agreements	PÚ	6	2	3	4	5	-	1.12.2002
6.3.	Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for specialisation agreements	PÚ	6	5	6	12	18	-	1.12.2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
6.4.	Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for research and development agreements	PÚ	6	5	6	12	18	-	1.12.2002
6.5.	Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for agreements in the insurance sector	PÚ	6	27	28	34	40	-	1.12.2002
6.6.	Governmental ordinance on the simplified procedure for the assessment of certain concentrations	PÚ	6	27	28	34	40	-	1.12.2002
6.7.	Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for agreements between line carriers	PÚ	6	27	28	34	40	-	1.12.2002
6.8.	Issue a governmental ordinance on the granting of block exemptions from the ban on agreements restricting competition for technology transfer agreements	PÚ	6	27	28	34	40	-	1.12.2002
6.9.	Adopt a more deterrent sanctioning policy as regards antitrust	PÚ	6	-	-	-	-	-	continuous
6.10.	Align incompatible aid schemes following consultations with the EC	ÚSP	6	-	-	-	-	-	30.7.2002
6.11.	Strengthen the administrative capacity of the ÚSP with emphasis on the need to recruit competent and qualified staff in accordance with Resolution No. 702/2001 of 18 July 2001	ÚSP	6	-	-	-	-	-	control date: 31.1.2002
6.12.	Complete the state aid inventory in accordance with EU rules	ÚSP	6	-	-	-	-	-	31.3.2002
6.13.	Create a methodical procedure for the notification system for the granting of state aid	ÚSP	6	-	-	-	-	-	31.3.2002
7.1.	<i>New veterinary care act</i>	MA	7	2	3	4	5	6	<i>entry into force: 1.4.2002</i>
7.2.	Amendment to Act No. 330/1991 Coll. on Landscaping, Settlement of Land Ownership, Land Offices, the Land Fund, and Land Associations	MA	7	3	4	6	12	13	1.7.2002
7.3.	Amendment to Act No. 180/1995 Coll. on Certain Measures	MA	7	3	4	6	12	13	1. 7. 2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	for the Settlement of Land Ownership								
7.4.	Act on the leasing of agricultural land	MA	7	4	5	11	17	18	1. 8. 2002
7.5.	Amendment to Act No. 240/1998 Coll. on Agriculture and on Amendment and Supplementation of Other Laws	MA	7	31	32	38	44	45	1. 1. 2003
7.6.	Amendment to Act No. 291/1996 Coll. on Plant Varieties and Seeds	MA	7	4	5	11	17	18	1. 8. 2002
7.7.	Amendment to Act No. 224/1998 Coll. on Organic Farming and the Production of Bio-foodstuffs	MA	7	3	4	8	12	13	1. 7. 2002
7.8.	Adopt an act amending and supplementing Act No. 332/1996 Coll. on Viticulture and Wine Production	MA	7	4	5	11	17	18	1.1.2003
7.9.	Issue the principles for the organisation of markets in selected agricultural products in accordance with the act on the organisation of the market	MA	7	9	10	16	22	-	1. 7. 2002
7.10.	61 approximation ordinances to the veterinary care act	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	1. 1. 2003
7.11.	Issue market rules for individual commodities (in the form of approximation ordinances of the Government and related decrees)	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	1. 4. 2002
7.12.	Issue the statute of the Intervention Agency	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	1.3.2002
7.13.	Elaborate a proposal to address the financial and institutional framework for the completion of the vineyard register in accordance with the conclusions of screening	MA		-	-	-	-	-	1.2.2002
7.14.	Ensure the submission of an official request for the confirmation of the national accreditation of the SAPARD Agency	MA MF	7	-	-	-	-	-	1.2.2002
7.15.	Introduce the IACS: prepare a thorough and detailed strategy, including a precise timetable for establishing the necessary elements of a functional IACS	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	31.3.2002
7.16.	Fully equip the National Reference Laboratory for milk and dairy products and put it into routine operation	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	1.7.2002
7.17.	Elaborate and approve the Agro-environmental Programme	MA, MEn	7	-	-	-	-	-	1.7.2002
7.18.	Complete the Central Register of Cattle	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
7.19.	Complete, fully technically equip and put into operation the border veterinary and phytosanitary station in Vyšné	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	1.10.2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	Nemecké in accordance with EC requirements								
7.20.	Organise seminars and training for phytosanitary inspectors, producers and traders on the application of the approximated legislation in the field of phytosanitary protection	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	31.12.2002
7.21.	In conformity with the SAPARD programme, create conditions for upgrading food-processing establishments with respect to EC food safety standards	MA	7	-	-	-	-	-	continuous, control date for submitted projects: 1.7.2002
8.1.	Strengthen the fisheries department at the Ministry of Agriculture with a further 2 employees	MA	8	-	-	-	-	-	31.7.2002
8.2.	Strengthen the personnel of institutions involved in the control of fish and fish products	MA	8	-	-	-	-	-	31.7.2002
9.1.	Amendment to Road Transport Act No. 168/1996 Coll.	MTPT	9	4	5	11	17	18	1.1.2003
9.2.	Implement measures falling under negotiation chapter 9 "Transport policy" resulting from the document Analysis of the Requirements Arising from the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law - approved by the Government on 18.7.2001	MTPT	9	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002
9.3.	Implement interoperability requirements	MTPT	9	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003
9.4.	Create the regulatory authority for rail transport	MTPT	9	-	-	-	-	-	1.7.2003
10.1.	Act on International Assistance in Tax Administration	MF	10	8	9	13	15	18	1.7.2002
10.2.	Amendment to Value Added Tax Act No. 289/1995 Coll.	MF	10	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
10.3.	Amendment to Act No. 310/1993 Coll. on Excise Duties on Beer	MF	10	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
10.4.	Amendment to Act No. 309/1993 Coll. on Excise Duties on Wine	MF	10	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
10.5.	Amendment to Act No. 229/1995 Coll. on Excise Duties on Alcohol	MF	10	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
10.6.	Amendment to Act No. 312/1993 Coll. on Excise Duties on Tobacco and Tobacco Products	MF	10	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
10.7.	Ensure the full functionality of the tax information	MF	10	-	-	-	-	-	control date:

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	system, its interconnection with the customs administration information system and mutual compatibility with EC systems								June 2002
10.8.	Strengthen the administrative capacities at the finance ministry's tax section and tax and customs administration in accordance with the document "Analysis of the Requirements Arising from the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law"	MF	10	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002 and throughout 2002
11.1.	Submit the notification of fiscal debt and deficit to the EC	MF	11	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
11.2.	Submit an update of the Pre-accession Economic Programme to the EC	MF	11	-	-	-	-	-	15.8.2002
11.3.	Strengthen the Financial Policy Institute of the MF with 2 employees for macroeconomic analyses and planning	MF	11	-	-	-	-	-	by 1.4.2002 (1 employee) by 1.7.2002 (1 employee)
12.1.	Prepare the plan for the implementation of the INTRASTAT system	SO	12	-	-	-	-	-	31.7.2002
12.2.	Implement measures falling under NP 12 resulting from the Analysis of the Requirements Arising from the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law	SO	12	-	-	-	-	-	continuous, control deadline: 31.7.2002
13.1.	New health insurance act	MH	13	3	4	7	13	14	1.7.2002
13.2.	New social insurance act – first pillar	MLSAF	13	3	5	11	17	18	1.7.2003
13.3.	Legislative objective for an act on capitalisation pension insurance – second pillar of the social insurance act	MLSAF	13	12	13	15	17	18	1.7.2003
13.4.	Antidiscrimination act implementing directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC	Deputy PM for Human Rights, MLSAF, MI, MJ, MEn, MH, MEd	13	3	5	11	17	18	1.7.2003
13.5.	Governmental ordinance on the minimum safety and health requirements at work in explosive atmospheres (1999/92/EC)	MLSAF	13	26	27	43	49	-	1.1.2003

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
13.6.	Governmental ordinance on the conditions for the provision of personal protective equipment	MLSAF	13	19	20	26	32	-	1.9.2002
13.7.	Submit a document defining the competences of the ESF Management Unit and NLO and MEd implementation units to the Government for assessment	MLSAF NLO MEd	13	7	8	-	9	-	1.3.2002
13.8.	Ratify ILO Convention No 180 on Seafarers' Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships and ratify the Protocol of 1996 to the Merchant Shipping Convention (Minimum Standards)	MTPT MLSAF	13	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003
13.9.	Elaborate a national strategy focusing on Slovakia's participation in the European social inclusion strategy, including a timetable for the preparation of the National Programme for the Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion until 2005	MLSAF	13	30	31	-	32	-	1.9.2002
13.10.	Prepare a timetable for the elaboration of the National Social Protection Programme until 2005	MLSAF	13	-	-	-	-	-	1.7.2002
13.11.	Elaborate a system of monitoring and a network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases compatible with the EU network	MH	13	-	-	-	-	-	1.7.2002
13.12.	Elaborate a system for health monitoring to obtain data on health and indicators comparable with EU health monitoring systems	MH	13	-	-	-	-	-	1.11.2002
13.13.	Update the measures within the National Employment Plan and implement European Employment Principles into the National Employment Plan	MLSAF	13	-	-	-	-	-	2002 - 2004
13.14.	Manage Euro-integration preparations and the preparation of projects within the framework of the European Social Fund	MLSAF	13	-	-	-	-	-	2002 – 2004
13.15.	Complete the implementation agency for the ESF, including the reinforcement of administrative structures	MLSAF	13	-	-	-	-	-	1.9.2002
13.16.	Create personnel and material conditions for the implementation of medical assessment activities and fully adapt this system to Slovakia's environment - within the framework of the preparations, strengthen the MLSAF with 4 persons in 2002	MLSAF	13	-	-	-	-	-	continuous

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				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
13.17.	Reinforce the general judicial system with labour and social senates	MJ	13	-	-	-	-	-	1.7.2002
13.18.	Build a Labour Protection Education and Information Centre to improve basic and further training of labour inspectors and labour inspectorates' staff, training of company managers, methodical guidance for the training of employees in the field of work safety and other related activities	MLSAF, NLI	13	-	-	-	-	-	continuous
13.19.	Elaborate the National Programme for Safety and Health at Work	MLSAF	13	-	-	-	-	-	1.7.2002
14.1.	Strengthen the administrative capacity of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority	ÚJD	14	-	-	-	-	-	31.1.2002
14.2.	Strengthen the administrative capacity of the State Material Reserves Administration	SŠHR	14	-	-	-	-	-	31.1.2002
14.3.	Liberalise the Slovak Republic's power sector on the basis of the Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic, which was approved by the Government in January 2000	MEc	14	-	-	-	-	-	by the end of 2003
14.4.	Build up the stocks of crude oil and petroleum products in accordance with the adopted Act on Emergency Stocks of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products and assure its implementation in the field of addressing oil crises	SŠHR	14	-	-	-	-	-	continuous (38 days' consumption in 2002)
14.5.	Continue with the preparation of Bohunice NPP, V-1, units 1 and 2 decommissioning	MEc	14	-	-	-	-	-	continuous
14.6.	Continue with planning and observing the timetable of the plan for Bohunice NPP, V-2 modernisation; modernisation should be implemented according to the time-schedule consistent with Agenda 2000 requirements (2004 - 2007)	MEc	14	-	-	-	-	-	continuous
14.7.	Implement the remaining safety enhancement measures planned for units 1 and 2 in Mochovce	MEc	14	-	-	-	-	-	continuous
14.8.	Prepare Euratom safeguards, in particular concerning the reporting of nuclear material flows and inventories directly by the persons or structures operating nuclear installations or storing nuclear material	ÚJD	14	-	-	-	-	-	by the end of 2002
15.1.	Submit to the Government the industrial policy priorities	MEc	15	-	-	-	-	-	30.6.2002

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				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	for the 2002-2004 period								
15.2.	Submit to the Government a report on the state of the business environment, which will assess the implementation of the recommendations from the document Improvement of Legal, Regulatory and Tax Frameworks for the Support of Investment	Deputy PM for Economy MEc	15	-	-	-	35	-	31.8.2002
15.3.	Submit to the Government an analysis of the administrative structures affecting the business environment in Slovakia	MEc	15	-	-	-	-	-	30.6.2002
16.1.	Submit the document "Analysis of the Development of Small and Medium-size Undertakings and Proposal for Changes in the System of Support for Small and Medium-size Undertakings" for governmental debate	MEc	16						31.3.2002
17.1.	Submit a draft strategy for Slovakia's participation in the 6 th Framework Programme of the EU for Research and Development and participation in the activities of international science and research organisations to the government	MEd CSAA	17	-	-	-	-	-	June 2002
18.1.	<i>Act on training and education</i>	MEd	18	8	9	15	17	18	1.9.2002
19.1.	Amendment to the telecommunications act - secure compliance with the <i>acquis</i>	MTPT	19	9	10	11	12	13	1.1.2003
19.2.	Elaborate a Country Informational Strategy and submit it for governmental debate	MEd	19	-	-	-	5	-	1.2.2002
19.3.	Secure personnel and finance for the activity of the regulatory authority for posts	MTPT	19	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002
19.4.	Implement measures within the framework of negotiation chapter 19 Telecommunications and information technologies arising from the document Analysis of Requirements to Secure the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law	MTPT	19	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002
20.1.	Complete material and administrative needs of the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission	Chairman of the CBR	20	-	-	-	-	-	31.1.2002
20.2.	Complete material and administrative needs of the Cultural Contact Point	MC	20	-	-	-	-	-	31.1.2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
21.3.	Governmental ordinance on financial management in the implementation of the Phare programme	MF	21	14	15	21	27	-	1.8.2002
21.4.	Governmental ordinance on financial management in the implementation of the ISPA programme	MF	21	23	24	30	36	-	1.10.2002
21.5.	Governmental ordinance on financial management in the implementation of the SAPARD programme	MF	21	28	29	35	41	-	1.11.2002
21.6.	Complete the management and payment authorities for the implementation of structural funds at relevant ministries	MCRD MLSAF MA, MTPT, MEn	21	-	-	-	-	-	31. 12. 2002
21.7.	Make a binding decision on the final form of the NRDP (decision between the SPD and CSF)	MCRD	21	-	-	-	-	-	31. 1. 2002
21.8.	Make a final decision on division at the level of NUTS II regions	Deputy PM for Human Rights, Deputy PM for European Integration, MCRD, SO	21	-	-	-	9	-	28.2.2002
21.9.	Update joint programme documents on Slovakia's borders within the framework of Phare CBC programmes	MCRD	21	-	-	-	-	-	31. 12. 2002
21.10.	Complete the Regional Development Implementation Agency, reinforcement by 10 expert staff	MCRD	21	-	-	-	-	-	1.3.2002 (4 employees) 1.7.2002 (6 employees)
21.11.	Co-ordinate the implementation of individual sectoral and regional operational programmes in the NRDP	MCRD	21	-	-	-	-	-	continuous control date: 1.7.2002
21.12.	Elaborate a system for the financial management of structural funds	MF, MCRD, MLSAF, MTPT, MA MEn, MEc	21	-	-	-	50	-	As of accession to the EU:
21.13.	Adopt measures to improve inter-ministerial co-ordination in relation to preparation for structural funds	DPM EI, DPM MR, MCRD	21	-	-	-	-	-	Date: continuous
21.14.	Submit a proposal for the specification of competencies at	MCRD	21	-	-	-	-	-	Date:

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				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	the central level and between the central and regional level in the framework of the implementation of structural funds to the government	MF MA, MLSAF, MEc							30.4.2002
21.15.	Establish a system for the monitoring and evaluation of structural funds	MCRD MF, MA, MLSAF, MEc	21	-	-	-	-	-	31. 12. 2002
21.16.	Strengthen administrative structures for the implementation of EU legislation at the central and regional levels with emphasis on the area of monitoring and evaluation	MCRD	21	-	-	-	-	-	31. 12. 2002
21.17.	Strengthen the level of technical preparation of projects (project pipeline) to be financed from EU structural funds, implement technical assistance in the given area at the regional level	MCRD	21	-	-	-	-	-	31.12.2002
22.1.	Amendment to Waste Act	MEn	22	46	47	50	51	52	1 st quarter 2003
22.2.	Air Protection Act	MEn	22	3	4	6	8	9	1.12.2002
22.3.	Act on Packaging and Packaging Waste	MEn	22	12	13	20	26	27	2 nd half of 2002
22.4.	Amendment to Nature and Landscape Protection Act	MEn	22	12	13	15	17	18	1.1.2003
22.5.	Act on System of Environmentally Oriented Management and Audit	MEn	22	8	9	11	12	13	1.1.2003
22.6.	Act on Environmental Labelling of Products	MEn	22	8	9	11	12	13	1.1.2003
22.7.	Act on Application of Sewage Sludge and Bottom Sediments to Soil transposing Directive 86/278/EEC	MA	22	31	32	38	44	45	1.1.2003
22.8.	Governmental Regulation through which the water pollution limit indicators are laid down	MEn	22	3	4	7	13	14	in relation to the act on the protection and handling of waters
22.9.	Transformation of the Governmental Regulation No. 92/1996 Coll. into a Ministry of Envir. decree through which certain	MEn	22	44	45	-	-	-	in relation to the air

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				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	provisions of the Air Protection Act are implemented and issue a decree of the Ministry of Environment on air quality								protection act
22.10.	Decree on measuring the amounts of discharged pollutants, on methods for the measuring, monitoring and verification of data on the observance of set pollution limits and general conditions of operation, and on requirements for technical equipment for the monitoring of emissions	MEn	22	44	45	-	-	-	in relation to the air protection act
22.11.	6 decrees implementing Act on Prevention of Major Accidents involving Dangerous Substances	MEn	22	-	-	-	-	-	in relation to the act on the prevention of major accidents
22.12.	Set up a unit under the Slovak Environmental Agency to archive EIA documentation and secure availability of information in accordance with the law, i.e. on assessments from the last 15 years	MEn	22	-	-	-	-	-	control date: 6/2002
22.13.	Implement the EU NATURA 2000 project	MEn	22	-	-	-	-	-	Data processing deadline: 3/2003 Date of the national SCI list's submission to the EC: 12/ 2003
23.1.	Amendment to the Civil Code incorporating Directive 94/47/EC on time-share and Directive 93/13/EC on unfair terms in consumer contracts	MJ, MF	23	12	13	15	17	18	1.1.2003
23.2.	Governmental ordinance on access to consumer information on fuel economy and CO2 emissions in connection with the sale of new passenger vehicles	MEc		9	10	16	22	-	1.7.2002
24.1.	Act on elections to the European Parliament	MI	24	26	27	43	49	50	1.1.2004
24.2.	New act on asylum	MI	24	1	2	3	4	5	1.1.2003
24.3.	Elaborate a project for the issuance of EU format travel documents	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003
24.4.	Issue an internal regulation of the Ministry of the Interior on sectoral crisis management and implement the Joint	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.2.2002

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				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	Action of 15.10.1996 concerning anti-terrorist competencies and Declaration of 30.11.1993 on the financing of terrorism								
24.5.	Issue an internal regulation of the MI on principles for the protection of personal data in police information systems	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.3.2002
24.6.	Modernise and strengthen the infrastructure of border crossings, improve the performance of authorities working at borders, complete technical equipment for the detection of illegal migrants with emphasis on the border with Ukraine	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003
24.7.	Update and fully harmonise visa policy with the relevant <i>acquis</i> , complete the on-line system for the issuance of visas and their central register	MI MFA	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.3.2003
24.8.	Harmonise data protection with the <i>acquis</i> (Army, Slovak Information Service, Railway Police, Court Warden Force, General Prosecutor's Office, and Customs Administration)	Plenipotent. for the Protection of Personal Data, MF, MoD, GP, SIS, MTPT	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003
24.9.	Set up a separate organisational unit within the Ministry of the Interior for co-operation with an independent control body for personal data protection in information systems	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.3.2002
24.10.	Update and thoroughly implement the comprehensive strategy for combating organised crime	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
24.11.	Intensify the fight against trafficking of human beings and secure a specialised office within the Police Force	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
24.12.	Strengthen capacity in the fight against money laundering and ensure the fulfilment of all FATF recommendations	MI, MF, MJ	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
24.13.	Update and thoroughly implement the National Programme for the Fight Against Drugs	Deputy PM for Human Rights	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
24.14.	Secure co-operation with Europol by concluding an	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003

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				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	agreement on co-operation								
24.15.	Join the Council of Europe Convention on Cyber-Crime	MFA, MJ, MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.3.2003
24.16.	Ensure a reduction in the functional overlap of competencies between the police and investigators	MI	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003
24.17.	Ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and related protocols	MFA, MI, MJ	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.3.2003
24.18.	Submit a report assessing the fulfilment of tasks arising from the Schengen <i>acquis</i> and draft update of the Schengen Action Plan for governmental session	MI, MJ	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.6.2002
24.19.	Sign the 1980 Convention on International Access to Justice	MJ	24	-	-	-	-	-	1.9.2002
25.1.	Continue the establishment of a customs information system compatible with EC systems	MF CD	25	-	-	-	-	-	continuous control date: 9/2002
26.1.	Access to the Agreement on Government Procurement	MEc, PPO	26	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2003
26.2.	Access to the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft	MEc, MTPT	26	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2004
26.3.	Fully harmonise the GSP scheme in co-ordination with the Czech Republic within the customs union	MEc, MF	26	-	-	-	-	-	by 1.1.2004 at the latest
26.4.	Prepare a revision of Slovakia's contractual framework with the aim of achieving the compliance of Slovakia's international commitments of an economic nature with the EU/EC contractual framework	DPM, CSAA	26	-	-	-	-	-	control date: 1.1.2003
27.1.	Prepare an analysis of the implementation of the EU Code of Conduct on Arm Exports	MFA MEc	27	-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
27.2.	Prepare a revision of Slovakia's contractual framework with the aim of achieving the compliance of Slovakia's international commitments with the EU/EC contractual framework	Deputy PM, CSAA	27	-	-	-	-	-	control date: 1.1.2003
28.1.	Ministry of Finance Decree through which details of the performance of internal audit, the content of audit reports and the content of annual reports on the activities of internal auditors are laid down	MF	28	10	11	-	-	-	1.4.2002
28.2.	Build a system for the permanent training and certification of financial controllers in the area of external	SAO	28	-	-	-	-	-	31.12.2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	financial control								
28.3.	Elaborate manuals for the performance of different types of internal audit	MF	28	-	-	-	-	-	31.12.2002
28.4.	Realise the complete establishment of the state treasury system in accordance with the approved timetable	MF	28	-	-	-	-	-	31.12.2002
28.5.	Start to build an on-line information connection between the Ministry of Finance, financial control offices and authorities for the implementation of legislation	MF	28	-	-	-	-	-	control date: june 2002
28.6.	Strengthen the personnel at the unit responsible for the co-ordination of public internal financial control by 8 employees	MF	28	-	-	-	-	-	1.1.2002
28.7.	Secure the establishment of and personnel for internal audit units at ministries and selected central state administration authorities in line with the document Analysis of Requirements to Secure the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law adopted by the government on 18th July 2001	ministers and heads of CSAA	28	-	-	-	-	-	Units' establishment : 1.1.2002 Securing personnel: 31.3.2002
29.1.	Amendment to Act No. 303/1995 on Budgetary Rules	MF	29	8	9	14	17	18	1.1.2003
29.2.	Fully harmonise macro-economic statistics with the ESA 95 system	SO	29	-	-	-	-	-	31.12.2002
	POLITICAL CRITERIA								
	<i>Act on judicial assistants</i>	MJ		8	9	11	12	13	1.6.2002
	Re-codify the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure	MJ		8	9	11	12	13	1.3.2003
	Adopt the code of ethics for civil servants on the basis of the civil service act	ÚSS, Deputy PM for Economy MLSAF		-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
	Establish the office of an ombudsman for human rights	Deputy PMs for Human Rights and Legislation		-	-	-	-	-	1.6.2002
	Provide public access to the Uniform Computer-Aided	MJ		-	-	-	-	-	1.2.2002

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				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	Legal Information System (JASPI)								
	Ensure further implementation of the computer-aided decentralised system of processing civil files at courts of all instances	MJ		-	-	-	-	-	1.2.2002
	Elaborate methodology for the procedure and analysis of co-operation in the field of electronic exchange of information on the criminal agenda and subsequently implement a project for the electronic exchange of information	GP MJ MI		-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
	Elaborate a project focusing on the issue of lobbying	Deputy PM for Economy		-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
	Propose a model procedure for granting licences and permits under the competence of central state administration authorities	Deputy PM for Economy, MF		-	-	-	-	-	1.3.2002
	As a follow-up to the governmental ordinance specifying the catalogue of activities in public service and the method for its supplementation, determine the rewarding of public service staff participating in the accession process and release finance to increase the rewarding of these employees; submit a proposal for the allocation of the finance to the Government (date of submission of the proposal for the allocation of the finance: 28.2.2002, date of implementation of the new system of rewarding: 1 April 2002)	Deputy PM for Economy MF MLSAF					9		1.4.2002
	Elaborate a project aimed at increasing the transparency of the financing of political parties	Deputy PM for Economy		-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
	Elaborate a proposal for measures to increase the transparency of public procurement	Deputy PM for Economy		-	-	-	-	-	1.2.2002
	Ratify the revised European Social Charter	MLSAF		-	-	-	-	-	1.7.2002
	Prepare a New Action Plan for the Prevention of All Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Expressions of Intolerance for the 2002-2003 period and ensure its implementation	Deputy PM for Human Rights		-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
	Continue to strengthen the office of the Government's	Deputy PM							continuous

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				Ministry's leadership	Filing dept. of the Office of the Gov't	Legislative Council of the Gov't	Gov't	Parliament	Entry into force/ completion
	Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities	for Human Rights Plenipot. for Roma Communities							
	Continue to implement the Government's Strategy for Addressing the Roma Ethnic Minority Issues and the Set of Measures for its Implementation	Deputy PM for Human Rights Plenipot. for Roma Communities							continuous
	Submit an information on the implementation of the housing policy concept for the Roma from the least developed Roma communities to the Government	Deputy PM for Human Rights, MCRD, Plenipot. for Roma Communities		-	-	-	9	-	1.3.2002
	Adopt measures to strengthen inspection activities to prevent and detect cases of ill-treatment by the police	MI		-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
	Adopt material and technical measures to shorten the length of court proceedings	MJ		-	-	-	-	-	1.6.2002
	Ensure uniform treatment by state and public administration authorities of documents considered to be confidential	Deputy PM for Legislation, MI		-	-	-	-	-	1.4.2002
	Adopt further measures in the fight against corruption, in particular in fields such as healthcare, education, police, courts and customs	MF, MJ, MEd, MI, MH, GP		-	-	-	-	-	1.5.2002
	Adopt concrete programmes aimed at increasing the educational standard of the Roma population	Deputy PM for Human Rights, Plenipot. for Roma Communities		-	-	-	-	-	1.9.2002

No.	Task	Responsible body	NC	Stages of the legislative process					
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	ECONOMIC CRITERIA								
	Continue prudent fiscal and monetary policy to consolidate macroeconomic stabilisation	MF NBS		-	-	-	-	-	continuous
	Take the following measures in the field of public finance: - implement the restructuring of Slovak Railways - reduce subsidies provided from the state budget in the draft state budget for 2003	MTPT MF		-	-	-	-	-	control date: 6/2002 31.12.2002
	Complete the ongoing structural reforms and the process of privatisation in the financial sector and public utilities sector according to plan	CSAA		-	-	-	-	-	continuous
	Implement measures that would improve the functionality of the capital market and adopt further measures aiming at strengthening financial sector supervision	MF NBS		-	-	-	-	-	continuous control date: quarterly
	Continue the medium term reform of expenditure on the pension system	MLSAF		-	-	-	-	-	continuous
	Continue the medium term reform of expenditure on the healthcare	MH		-	-	-	-	-	continuous
	Create conditions for reducing the unemployment rate to an acceptable level in the medium term through targeted active labour market policy measures	MLSAF		-	-	-	-	-	continuous

- the tasks in italics are unfulfilled Priority Tasks from 2001

Submission Report

On 13 November 2001, the European Commission published already for the 4th time its Regular Reports on progress of the candidate countries in the process of their preparation for the EU accession. The European Commission assessed Slovakia and other candidate countries on the basis of their fulfilment of Copenhagen political and economic criteria, capacity to assume the obligations arising from the EU membership and the administrative capacity to implement the *acquis communautaire* effectively.

The Regular Report on Slovakia is very important political, economic, legislative and institutional audit of the Slovak Republic's development in relation to the European Union over the past year. The European Commission in its Report welcomed and praised Slovakia's overall progress and pointed out the shortcomings in the individual areas. The European Commission stated in its Report that Slovakia has made **insufficient progress in the areas of regional policy, the environment and agriculture.**

The Slovak Republic has continued to meet the political criteria and has made significant progress in the consolidation and reinforcement of institutions' stability guaranteeing democracy. Important steps were made to strengthen the judiciary independence, while necessary legislation has not yet been adopted in connection with the appointment of judges and cancellation of the trial period for judges. Some progress has been made in the area of countering corruption, particularly in connection with the formulation of governmental policy and transposition of the international commitments. However, it is necessary to implement planned aims thoroughly.

This year Report of the European Commission was the first to describe the Slovak Republic as a **functioning market economy able to cope with the competitive pressure of the EU single market in the short-term.** Slovakia must continue to pay attention to macro-economic stabilisation and the consolidation of public finances and continue its structural reforms.

Slovakia has made significant progress in the area of approximation of legislation in the individual assessed areas, however, it has made less progress in the practical implementation and application of these legislative norms. Slovakia's ability to implement the EU legislation effectively will be a key criterion for the successful conclusion of the accession negotiations. Due to this reason, tasks relating to the administrative capacity arising from the document adopted by the Government, **"Analysis of Requirements to Secure the Administrative Needs and New Institutions Related to the Implementation of EU Law"**, are included in the submitted document.

Comprehensive analysis of Slovakia's progress towards the EU accession provided by the Regular Report forms the basis for definition of tasks for the forthcoming period.

Submitted document identifies the critical issues in individual areas of the accession process pointed out by the EC Report and defines on their basis the short-term Priority Tasks for 2002 - key year from view of the possible conclusion of negotiations on Slovakia's accession to the European Union.

Document has been submitted jointly by Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration Mária Kadlečíková, Deputy Prime Minister for Legislation Ľubomír Fogaš and Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Kukan. Despite the fact that submitted document is mainly aimed at the Euro-integration tasks of a legislative nature (laws, governmental regulations, decrees and orders of central state administration authorities), it also contains tasks of a non-legislative nature and tasks connected with the administrative capacity building, necessary for the implementation of the *acquis*

being transposed into the Slovak legislation. **Priority Tasks of a legislative nature defined in the submitted document will also be reflected in the 2002 Plan of the Government's Legislative Tasks, thereby guaranteeing the close integration of the planned legislative amendments and the Euro-integration process.**

Document "Priority Tasks arising from the Regular Report from the European Commission on the Slovak Republic's Progress towards Accession to the European Union of 13th November 2001" arises from the analyses of the EC Regular Report, from our commitments in negotiation positions and from tasks elaborated in the 3rd revised version of the National Programme for the Adoption of the *acquis communautaire* of May 2001. Document consists of two parts.

1. The first, Text Part contains a detailed analysis of shortcomings in the individual areas (political and economic criteria and 29 negotiation chapters) and short-term priority tasks arising thereof, fulfilment of which is crucial in 2002.
2. The second part of the submitted document consists of the table, in which the priority tasks are arranged according to the individual negotiation chapters, while each task has a deadline of the respective stage of the legislative process (submission to the management meetings, delivery to Filing Room of the Office of the Government, debate of the Legislative Council of the Government, debate of the Government, delivery to the National Council of the Slovak Republic and a date of entry into force, or date of task's completion). The deadlines concerning the management meetings, the Filing Room of the Office of the Government, sessions of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (which are also the deadlines from the 2002 Plan of the Government's Legislative Tasks) and a date of entry into force or the task's completion are binding for the central state administration authorities. **The individual deadlines are marginal, i.e. the latest possible deadlines in line with the Slovak Republic's commitments** arising from the 2001 National Programme for the Adoption of the *acquis communautaire* and individual negotiation positions. The Table Part of the document will be the basis for the regular monthly monitoring of the fulfilment of 2002 Priority Tasks.

Draft Governmental Resolution, in which tasks of both legislative and non-legislative nature are stated, **forms a separate section of the document**. In case of draft laws and concepts in draft resolution, the deadline stated is the date of draft act/document delivery to the Filing Room of the Office of the Government. In case of implementing regulations (governmental regulations, decrees and orders) the date stated in Draft Resolution is the date of their entry into force.

1st January 2004 has been stated the reference date for the Slovak Republic's accession to the EU and in view of this, **the Slovak Republic must transpose the *acquis communautaire* by 31 December 2002 at the latest.** The aim of the submitted document is to intensify the dynamics of the process of the adoption of the *acquis communautaire*, which is imperative if the Slovak Republic wants to meet the deadline of transposition and implementation of the *acquis*. Document was submitted for the Governmental Debate following its debate within the Ministerial Council of the Slovak Government for European Integration (MCGEI) on 10th December 2001. The MCGEI comments have been fully incorporated into the document. The MCGEI recommended approving the document at the Governmental Session on 12th December 2001.